

Monday March 23 1998

Algeria D 8.50	Greece O 200	Qatar O 100
Andorra FF 10	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Romania R 200
Australia A\$ 20	Iceland IS 150	Saudi Arabia R 10
Belgium BF 70	Italy L 1.50	Slovakia SK 100
Canada C\$ 1.25	Jordan JD 1.25	Spain P 200
Czechia CZ 1.50	Kazakhstan KZ 100	Sweden S 100
Cyprus C\$ 1.00	Latvia LV 100	Switzerland SF 3.50
Denmark DK 10	Lebanon L 2000	Thailand B 80
Egypt E£ 10	Lithuania LT 100	Ukraine U 100
Finland FM 10	Madagascar MG 100	USA US\$ 3.00
France FF 12	Malta ML 100	
Germany DM 3.00	Netherlands D 2.25	
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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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Shaping up for the contest

The first elected mayor of London?

G2 with European weather



Any which way but lose

The good, the bad and the Oscars

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Dawn Airey defends Channel 5 on its first birthday

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Tories hound out Robinson

Minister to move to lower-key job

Michael White and Larry Elliott

TONY Blair is planning to use his first reshuffle to move the embattled Pymester General, Geoffrey Robinson, to a transport job in an attempt to find a less high-profile role for a minister who is still being hounded over his tax-free offshore trust.

The move has been forced by non-stop Tory attacks over his family's £2.5 million, Guernsey-based Orion Trust. The attacks have continued despite the Budget's clampdown on such trusts.

Downing Street believes Mr Robinson has not been guilty of any wrong doing, but recognises that the relentless campaign has made it all but impossible for him to stay at the Treasury.

The move would mean demotion or the sack for veteran Gavin Strang, currently Mr Prescott's No.2 at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) and the object of a whispering campaign by some MPs. Unlike Dr Strang, Mr Robinson would not be in the Cabinet.

Mr Robinson was cleared by Parliament's watchdog, Sir Gordon Downey, of breaking the rules in not declaring his family interest in the trust. But he was rebuked by Sir

Gordon, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, for not consulting him on whether to register it.



Geoffrey Robinson: faces axe

Pope takes crusade to Nigeria

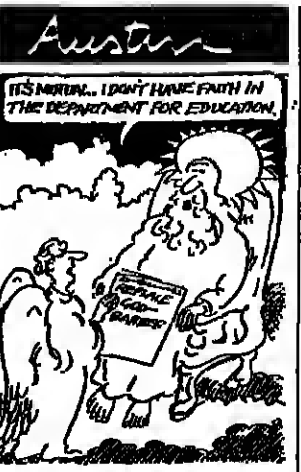


Nigerian Catholics, carrying their chairs on their heads, disperse after attending a mass celebrated by the Pope in Onitsha yesterday. The pontiff also beatified a Nigerian monk and called for the release of political prisoners Democracy crusade, page 2; Lagos Diary, page 8

Schools adviser urges moral code to replace God

John Carvel Education Editor

HEADTEACHERS were in revolt last night against a proposal by the Government to replace God at the heart of the school curriculum.



John Sutton, the general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said Prof Barber's intervention raised doubts about the Government's continued support for compulsory collective worship in state schools.

Michael Barber, the professor who heads the standards unit at the Department for Education and Employment, said pupils should learn the ethics of "global citizenship" to replace crumbling religious values.

"When you are up against the greed and acquisitiveness of modern society, you need something rather more compelling than a group of middle-aged men getting

'Lucky Jim' set for £12m goodbye after row at EMI



Jim Ffield... 'asked for too much to run company'

TONY May, EMI's music chief, Jim Ffield, is set to receive the biggest payoff in British corporate history, collecting an estimated £12 million after falling out with fellow directors at the record company.

The payoff is certain to trigger a row with large investors already concerned at the division of responsibilities at the top of one of Britain's most successful creative groups.

Mr Ffield, who was dubbed 'Lucky Jim' after receiving £2.5 million in remuneration last year, heads the group's music division, whose stars include Verve, Blur, the Spice Girls, George Michael and

Tina Turner. His earnings have totalled £34 million over five years.

He was expected to become chief executive of EMI alongside chairman Sir Colin Southgate, who recently took over the chair at the Royal Opera House. But Mr Ffield, aged 55, was said by insiders to have overplayed his hand by asking for a £10 million pay package and a free hand in running the business.

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Lord Young, Cable & Wireless, £2.4 million
John Clark, BET, £2.25 million
Andrew Longhurst, Lloyds Bank, £2 million
Martin Owen, Natwest Markets, £2 million
Ann Hanson, Laura Ashley, £450,000

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Prague Writers' Festival 1998

The 8th Prague Writers' Festival presents a selection of fine authors from the Czech Republic and around the world. Meet them at the Franz Kafka Centre, Old Town Square, at 7 pm from 20 to 25 April.

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Wednesday 22 April Pedro Tamen Mário Soza Mia Couto Germano Almeida Tahar Ben Jelloun Miroslav Holub	Portuguese-Language Day Portugal Mozambique Mozambique Cape Verde Morocco Czech Republic
Thursday 23 April Lillian Fuchsinger Robert Menasse Claudio Magris Lucy Cavendish	Austrian Day Austria Austria Italy Czech Republic
Friday 24 April Robert Creeley John Banville Dante Matias Ruth Gelpi Mila Housková Viera Prokešová Daniela Fischerová	For Bohumil Hrabal USA Ireland Italy Greece Slovakia Slovakia Czech Republic
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2 NEWS

Parties dismiss Ulster hopes

Rory Carroll

THE discovery of a huge 1,300lb bomb overshadows today's make-or-break resumption of the Northern Ireland peace talks, which face an uphill battle after republicans and unionists dismissed Tony Blair's claim that a deal was "agonisingly close".

Irish police in the border town of Dundalk arrested two men yesterday after finding a fully primed and assembled device in a lock-up ready to be transported for an attack in Northern Ireland. Cordell IRA, a splinter group opposed to the peace process, was blamed. The group detonated a huge bomb last year on the day of Sinn Féin's historic entry to the Stormont talks.

The detonation of a 1,300lb bomb, enough to blow apart an entire town, could have derailed negotiations as they entered their most crucial phase, billed as the "end-game" of the peace process.

Chances of meeting the May deadline, already slim, receded at the weekend despite the Prime Minister's relentlessly optimistic rhetoric. Sinn Féin and the Ulster Unionists said Government hype did not reflect enduring obstacles to progress.

Sinn Féin may even be expelled from the talks this

week if Jeffrey Donaldson, a UUP talks delegate, supplies a dossier he says contains fresh evidence of IRA violence, which would breach the Mitchell Principles.

Sinn Féin take their seats today after a two-week suspension because of IRA violence, but the RUC believe IRA members were involved in a recent murder and mortar attack on a police station, said Mr Donaldson.

"We will press the Government to take action against Sinn Féin, but if they don't then we will mount the indictment ourselves," he said.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, said the Government had unrealistic expectations. He told around 500 party members at their annual conference that he would not talk directly to Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, despite pleas from Tony Blair and Bill Clinton.

Sinn Féin, which decided on Saturday to return to the talks, said agreement was impossible without such contact. But the party chairman, Mitchell McLaughlin, said a breakthrough would come despite reservations about the talks process. "Even if people were to walk away in disgust at David Trimble's attitude at this stage we would have to at some stage in the future come back to this very point,"

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, said



Nationalists march down the Garvaghy Road in Portadown, Co Armagh, to protest at the Orange Order parade which will pass through in July

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL McERLANE

Mr Trimble's hand was being forced by hardliners in his own party.

A newspaper poll of delegates at the UUP conference showed more than two thirds opposed a face-to-face meeting. Three quarters supported Ken Maginnis's throwing of two Irish tricolours into the Thames, and only a fifth were prepared to accept a cross-

border body, a minimum nationalist demand.

Mr Trimble was re-elected unanimously, but he must consult the party at almost every stage of negotiation, and convene a general meeting of its council, if asked to sign a deal he is doubtful about.

In a speech, he promised to remain at the talks but with-

out meeting Sinn Féin. "As long as Sinn Féin-IRA does not recognise consent, does not recognise our right to define ourselves as British, continues to re-arm, and continues to use violence, we cannot regard them as a normal party."

Mr Mowlem, the North Ireland Secretary, yesterday told a ceremony in Warrington, to

mark the fifth anniversary of the IRA bombing which killed Tim Parry, aged 12, and Jonathan Ball, aged three, that there was a real chance to end the violence. "We have some tough decisions and a tough timetable ahead, but I believe we can make it. The courage and determination of the party leaders is the key to our success," she said.

Just how tight that deadline is was demonstrated in Portadown, Co Armagh, where police and soldiers in riot gear kept 200 loyalists away from a 1,000-strong rally by the Catholic residents of the Garvaghy Road, who were protesting against the Orange Order parade which marches down their road in July, igniting the Drumcree riots. The

Marching season, which inflames tension, will be under way by June, giving negotiators at Stormont no leeway if they fail to agree by May.

North Belfast remained tense yesterday, after police fired three plastic bullets at up to 50 loyalist rioters who threw around 30 petrol bombs after being prevented from entering a nationalist area.

Defiant Pope takes democracy crusade to Nigerian wasteland

Alex Duval Smith in Oba

OLD, frail, and travelling against his doctor's advice, Pope John Paul II chose conditions of almost biblical simplicity — a dusty wasteland in south-eastern Nigeria — to deliver one of the hardest-hitting homilies of his papacy.

On the second of his three days in Nigeria, the 78-year-old pontiff told thousands of people gathered in the intense heat to rid their society "of everything that offends the dignity of the human person or violates human rights".

In a direct reference to the military regime of Sani Abacha, the Pope sent a clear message of defiance which struck a chord with the people of the Onitsha region, marginalised 30 years ago into a position that led to the Biafran war.

"All Nigerians must work towards achieving honesty, efficiency and competence in the art of governing."

"As your nation pursues a peaceful transition to a democratically elected government, there is a need for politicians — both men and women — who love their own people and wish to serve rather than be served."

"There can be no place for intimidation and domination of the poor and the weak, for exclusion of individuals and groups from political life, for the misuse of authority or the abuse of power," said the Pope, who has come to the remote spot to headify a Nigerian month. As the homily progressed, the proclamation as "blessed" of Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi looked increasingly like a pretext for rallying Nigerians towards political change.

The Pope's message came a day after he called on General Abacha's government to consider granting clemency to about 60 political detainees and 600 death-row inmates.

The list of names was be-

lieved to include such prominent political prisoners as the supposed victor of 1993 presidential elections, Moshood Abiola, and trade union leaders.

Human rights groups say there are about 200 political prisoners in Nigeria.

Gen Abacha's spokesman, David Attah, said he could not comment on the release request, but the papal spokesman, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, said Nigerian officials had agreed to consider it.

The Sunday New Nigerian, the official newspaper for northern Nigeria, ran an editorial saying: "We appeal to the head of state to use the occasion to take decisions on crucial national problems which would further endear him to Nigerians, and Nigeria to the international community."

Observers say the Pope's visit to Nigeria — his second in 16 years — demonstrates a new focus, begun in Cuba, on democracy and human rights.

After his visit to Cuba in

January, Fidel Castro ordered the release of 229 political detainees.

The Pope's helicopter descended on Oba in a cloud of orange dust amid up to a million brightly-dressed people, some of them wearing fabric printed with the Pope's portrait.

Several hundred nuns and clergy processed to the communion service, staged beneath a straw covering. But the pilgrims were subdued, singing only occasionally.

It could have been the heat or just the rigours of Nigerian life — no fuel, no electricity, lack of water — which dampened spirits.

Or it could have been, as Christopher Amalfehn, a student aged 24, said: "People want to be here. But some people may be thinking this is a publicity drive for Abacha."

Ndidi Ikemefuna, aged 17, disagreed. "Abacha has already lost his front. Let's hope two million people are here," she said.

If two million were there — estimates vary wildly —

the Oba beatification will have been a further blow to Gen Abacha, who has been as good as humiliated by the Pope's speeches.

Gen Abacha, who came to power in 1993 after Mr Abiola was jailed, has pledged to hold elections in August.

In an attempt to demonstrate his popularity — perhaps so as to avenge himself as civilian president — last month he organised a "two-million-man march" (though the turnout is believed to have been significantly lower).

On the dusty wasteland yesterday near Onitsha the brightly coloured tunics and head wraps could not hide what seems to be an atmosphere of gloom.

Uchenna Madoka, a teacher, summed it up: "What is human rights when you haven't got food? Our main concern is getting by. Abacha is no worse than the rest, in fact he keeps Nigeria under control."



The Pope blesses hundreds of thousands of worshippers at a mass in Onitsha yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: JEROME DELAY

Top adviser urges moral code to replace God

continued from page 1

200 years... the belief systems which sustained Western societies have crumbled away. Christianity, which established ethical codes for most of the last 2,000 years, has become a minority interest, still hugely influential historically and culturally, but no longer able to claim unquestioning obedience," he said.

For a while in the mid-20th century it seemed as if communism might establish new ethics, but by the 1970s all that remained in Western countries was rampant consumerism and "the quicksand of cultural relativism" — an abandonment of the morality of right and wrong.

"In the absence of God and Marx, what are we to do?" he asked. "Not before time there is a growing realisation that an amoral society of unfettered individuals competing in global markets on mobile telephones is inconsistent with ensuring a planet fit for future generations."

"Whatever else the school system in a country like ours achieves, the horizon line surely should be that it needs to strive to create a generation which is not only well-educated in an academic sense, but also has a highly developed sense of ethics and of global, as well as national, citizenship."

But Mr Tobin, a historian and principal of Stewart's Melville College in Edinburgh, said teachers should uphold the belief that children were creatures of God. Underprivileged boys and girls would not latch on to an opinion about citizenship in a society that made them deprived.

Last month the Government rejected a multi-denominational churches' recommendation that schools no longer be required to hold daily religious assemblies.

Making art from the martyrdom of Oscar Wilde

Review

Michael Billington
The Judas Kiss
Playhouse Theatre

W E HAVE had plays about Wilde's trials, his politics, his life and his wife. Now comes David Hare's The Judas Kiss, presented by the Almeida Theatre at the Playhouse, which avoids the biographical slog to focus on two key episodes in Wilde's life. But, while it is sensitively written and directed, it suffers from a monochrome performance

from Liam Neeson as the saintly Oscar.

Hare pinpoints two pivotal moments in the Wilde tragedy. The first is at the Cadogan Hotel in 1895 when Wilde, after the collapse of the action against Lord Queensberry, rejects the option of flight to await inevitable arrest. The second is at Naples in 1897 when Wilde, after his release from jail, fatally resumes his relationship with Bosie, ensuring both ostracism and penury. The key question in both cases is what prompted an act of self-destruction.

Hare's answer, in the first,

less compelling act, is not that different from Ellmann's in his classic biography: that Wilde was both the spectator of his own tragedy and determined not to yield to the pressures of a hypocritical society. But, in the infinitely more fascinating second half, Hare implies that Wilde, while seeing through Bosie's potential for betrayal, was hypnotised both by the illusory nature of life and the prospect of martyrdom. If he is a portly Hamlet in the first half, he becomes a secular Christ in the second.

It is a persuasive reading and shows Hare, like all writ-

ers, creating his own Wilde; a romantic individualist consciously turning his life into a work of art. And the second act Wilde, an immobilised hulk in carpet slippers who looks, in his own words, "like a senior pederastic Anglican bishop", becomes an authentically tragic, twilit figure awaiting his inevitable end.

But Neeson carries only partial conviction. When the hero is affecting aloof indifference to his destiny, he conveys a restless agitation but one still long for him to colour and point a phrase.

Richard Eyre's production

brings out the aching romanticism of the second act, aided by Mark Henderson's winter-sun lighting and Boh Crowley's set, in which the Neapolitan squalor is offset by the hay's twinkling lights. Tom Hollander also portrays Bosie as a shallow emotional traitor, and Peter Capaldi induces sympathy for Robert Ross as the eternal go-between. What the evening confirms is Wilde's Hamlet-like status, in that each writer creates him afresh according to his own needs and desires.

This review appeared in some editions of the paper on Friday.

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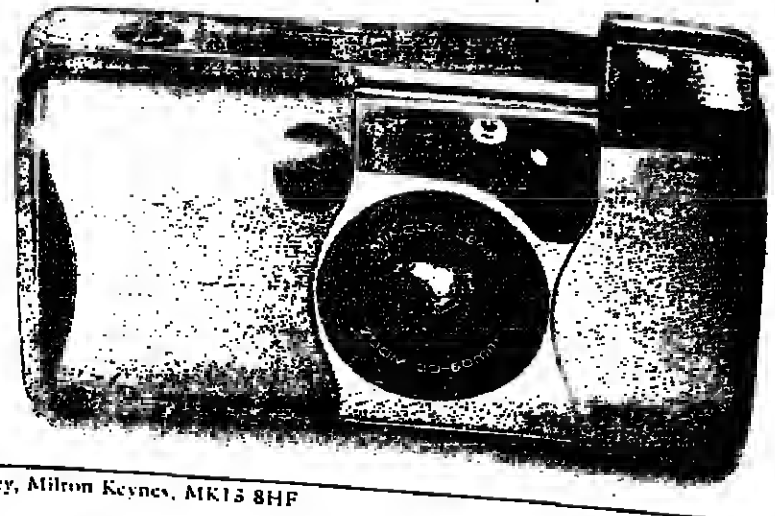
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4 BRITAIN



A League Against Cruel Sports video shows hounds from the Devon and Somerset stag hunt and a stag near the league's Baronsdown sanctuary

Fury over stag's killing

Chased animal shot dead near sanctuary

Geoffrey Gibbs

HUNT enthusiasts and campaigners against blood sports are locked in a row over the death of an exhausted stag, killed within yards of safety on a West Country animal sanctuary as jeering hunt supporters looked on.

passed on its land during the four-hour chase on Exmoor. It was also planning to shame MPs who filibustered against the bill to outlaw hunting put forward by Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, by sending them video tapes of the "horrific" incident.

League members tried to save the stag after it plunged into the River Exe on the boundary of the league's 300-acre Baronsdown sanctuary near Dulverton while being chased by the Devon and Somerset staghounds last

week. But they claim the animal was startled back on to hunt land, where it was shot after hunt followers on the opposite bank began throwing stones.

Hunt followers lining a public road that flanks the sanctuary 200 yards away were said to have jeered and blown horns to frighten the animal.

According to Diana Scott, the hunt's joint master, it was a "normal day's hunting" conducted correctly. "The deer was dispatched quickly and cleanly with one shot."

She claimed that in their enthusiasm to save the deer league members had themselves driven the animal back on to hunt land when they ran into the river shouting.

Kevin Hill, sanctuaries officer for the 2,500 acres of land

administered by the league in the West Country, said those who witnessed the killing were "absolutely devastated" by the incident.

"It hit us all really hard because the animal was just yards from safety. These people were making noises as if they came from the dark ages, and that is where their thinking is when it comes to animals."

The league's chief officer, Graham Sirl, who rushed into the river to try to help the animal, said that at one point during the chase hounds had pursued the deer across the sanctuary. "The crowds along the road were jeering and whooping and hollering. They were determined they were going to kill the deer no matter what the consequences. I

am going to nail them to the wall for this, and we will be consulting our top solicitors."

A British Field Sports Society, claimed that huntsmen could have killed the deer sooner had the "antics" not interfered. "The antics of the league people on the other side of the bank delayed the dispatching of the deer by half an hour."

Two huntsmen were injured and 21 protesters arrested after clashes between hunt saboteurs and riders at a meeting of the Wendover Hunt near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, at the weekend.

A Thames Valley Police spokesman said the saboteurs ambushed the riders wielding iron bars, sticks and clubs. The injured huntsmen were treated in hospital.

Sister sued for death of child

Lawrence Donegan

A SCOTTISH court is to rule on a damages claim by a woman against her sister for the death of her young son in a car accident.

Lynn Douglas claims the death of Jamie Douglas, aged three, was partly a result of "failures" by her sister, Margaret Duncan, who was minding the child at the time he was hit by a car in an accident, and later died.

Mrs Douglas claims damages of £50,000. If successful, her unprecedented action could have major implications for the legal responsibilities of informal child minders.

Documents lodged at Perth sheriff court claim that the accident, near Mrs Duncan's home in the city, was the result of negligence by Mrs Duncan. "In all the duties incumbent on [Mrs Duncan] she failed, and by her failure caused the death of the deceased. But for those failures

the deceased would not be dead," alleges Mrs Douglas.

Jamie Douglas died in April 1990, a week after he and a four-year-old girl, Kerrie McCullie, were knocked down as they crossed the street after being served at an ice-cream van. The car was travelling within the speed limit.

The case will resume at Perth sheriff court next month. Earlier this month, the court was told that Mrs Duncan had given the young girl money to buy sweets. Mrs Duncan, aged 41, told Sheriff John McInnes that she had only let the two children out of her care momentarily.

"It only took a matter of seconds. I was careful, except that one time when I was careless. It was my fault. The children — even my own — play out on the street all the time. I'm sorry. I never asked for baby-sitting money from my family. I did it as a favour for my family," she said.

The boy was taken to Dundee Royal Infirmary, where he underwent surgery for a serious brain injury. He died

five days later. The girl was badly injured but recovered.

Mrs Douglas, who has three other children, said yesterday she had taken the legal action in an effort to establish what happened to her son. Under Scottish law, unlike in England, it is not obligatory to hold an inquest in all cases of sudden death.

"A fatal accident inquiry into Jamie's death has never been held. If we'd had an inquiry then all of this would have been finished. We don't care about the money," she said. The two sisters had been close before the 1990 accident but have rarely spoken since, said Mrs Douglas.

"We don't really speak at all, except to say hello in the street. I feel awful about having to take action against my own sister. I have thanked her for being brave enough to get up in court and tell them that she was at fault and that she should have caught Jamie before he ran out of the door," she said.

Sheriff McInnes is expected to give his ruling on April 20.

Reward in Diana sale

Sarah Hall on the butler who donated a treasured gift and later had it returned



Paul Burrell... birthday gift from princess

THE inscribed enamel box was hardly the most lavish exhibit on offer at the celebrity-packed auction in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, but it meant a lot to the man who had donated it, her butler Paul Burrell.

For the inscription was Diana's and the box a 39th birthday gift to her employee.

The former manservant — described by the princess as "my rock" and "the only man that I can trust" — relinquished the hand-painted Halcyon Days trinket for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund auction by Sotheby's in Los Angeles.

Other items included a £2.2 million necklace inspired by the film Titanic and a holiday on Necker, the private island of Virgin entrepreneur Richard Branson.

Yesterday Mr Burrell's generosity was rewarded. Moments after an American philanthropist, Sarah Ban Breathnach, paid almost £4,000 for the box she returned it to its former

owner. "It's the right thing to do," she said later. "It was his own box I wanted to support the continuation of the princess's charity work, and I would have paid more."

The gesture brought Mr Burrell, a manager of the fund, close to tears. Praising his benefactor, who runs the Simple Abundance Charitable Fund, he said: "She has a very, very big heart. The box means such a lot to me."

The father of two, who was left £50,000 in the princess's will, was the only non-family member allowed to attend her

burial.

But generosity was less evident overall at the auction, where more than £1.7 million was raised for the memorial fund and the California-based Aid for AIDS charity.

The 170-carat diamond and sapphire heart-shaped necklace — recreated by the Queen's jewellers Asprey from one designed for the film Titanic — fetched only £1.37 million instead of the valued £2.2 million.

A trip for two to London, with a suite at Claridge's, lunch at Diana's favourite restaurant, San Lorenzo, and clothes by Christian Lacroix — together worth £22,500 — reached only £8,750.

● Tubs of Flora margarine bearing the official logo to commemorate Princess Diana go on sale today. Trustees of the memorial fund said the one-off Flora "Thanks" promotion would raise £250,000 for the charity.

It is part of the London Marathon fund-raising effort in which 600 runners, as Team Flora, plan to raise a further £1.2 million for the Memorial Fund.

Diana's former butler Paul Burrell, now a Memorial Fund trustee, was one of the main figures in arranging the deal. He will be running in the Marathon.

Driver of fatal crash train aims to clear his name

Vikram Dodd

A TRAIN driver convicted of manslaughter after a crash that killed five people is to start a legal fight to clear his name.

Robert Morgan pleaded guilty after the rail crash at

Purley, south London, in 1989 and admitted passing through a red signal to stop. But backed by the train drivers' union Aslef he is to seek a judicial review of his conviction and compensation.

They believe a legal avenue has been opened by the acquittal this month of a driver, Peter Afford, charged with

manslaughter at Luton crown court after the 1996 crash at Watford Junction, Hertfordshire, which killed one person. He argued that the poor state of trackside signalling contributed to that accident.

Mr Morgan served four months in jail after the Court of Appeal reduced his 18-month sentence with 12

months suspended. He was driving a Littlehampton to Victoria express which smashed into the rear of a Hornham to Victoria train outside Purley station. The collision at 60-70 miles per hour left 88 people injured. Six carriages were thrown down an embankment.

Lew Adams, Aslef's general secretary, said doubts about the reliability of signalling around Purley station rendered Mr Morgan's conviction unsafe.

The union says the fact that British Rail made improvements to signalling shortly after the crash supports its view that it was unsafe. Shortly before the crash other

drivers had reported that signals that should have warned them to stop were faulty.

Mr Morgan said he could not remember the colour of the two signals before the red one telling him to stop.

Mr Adams said: "Mr Morgan had no chance of stopping once he got to the final red signal. There is a culture of

'blame the driver' when a crash happens. It is quite clear he was left to take the blame, when the accident may have been caused by infrastructure shortcomings."

A 1990 report by the Railway Inspectorate found that Mr Morgan had passed through two caution signals. It said the crash could have

been prevented by an automatic train protection system, which stops the train if danger signals are ignored.

Mr Morgan, who at the time had 33 years' experience as a driver, suffered two broken hips. On his release he returned to work on restricted duties, unable to be in charge of trains with passengers.

Safety check over clean-up of toxic chemicals at site

Paul Brown on call to halt factory demolition

ONE of London's most contaminated building sites is being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive after residents and contractors were involved in angry exchanges on Friday over methods of removal of asbestos, arsenic, cyanide and toxic metals.

Camden council, north London, says that the contractors, Prestoplan, of

Preston, Lancashire, have broken a planning condition which said that they would consult residents before starting work on the site in Kentish Town.

The former stables block which was converted into a metals plating factory was shut down in the 1980s because of health risks.

After investigations by the council at the time, the top soil of several gardens had to be replaced because of heavy metal contamination. Residents called in the executive after workers allegedly without proper safety equipment attacked the asbestos roof with pickaxes. They fear the resulting dust

was dangerous. Bags of asbestos insulation had also been left on the site.

The former factory fills the entire area behind the back gardens of four streets. Now the developers have permission to put a 60-bed nursing home on the site.

Kate Harrison, whose house in Falklands Road backs on to the site said: "We were appalled to see men on the roof with pickaxes attacking the asbestos roof. We were frightened they might fall through. We later saw men with masks and white suits inside the factory." She has had the windows of her house taped up to keep out the dust and

hopes to keep her two children, Daniel, 11, and Helen, nine, away from the site while demolition is in progress. She is worried that the company may be putting lives at risk — "not least their own workers," she said.

"We do not want them prosecuted. All we want is the safety of the workers and ourselves."

Equally concerned is Nandita Dowson, a mother of five, who lives in Ascham Street and who organised a petition asking the council to stop the work while residents were informed of safety procedures. Her street was blocked all day on Friday

by a skip removing asbestos and other debris.

There were angry exchanges with the contractors about cars being blocked in. Prestoplan blamed the residents for being unreasonable and said it had produced a "method statement" on the removal of the asbestos and dangerous chemicals. This had been accepted by the council and the executive.

The method statement was supposed to be made available to the residents but has been kept confidential at the request of the contractors.

But the council has refused to stop the work. "We are not sure we

have the legal powers," a spokeswoman said.

The owners of the site, Ascham Community Care 2000, based in Hampstead, said workers were special clothing when they were dealing with asbestos. When the residents had complained the dust was found to be sawdust.

The company accepted that a liaison committee had not been formed. There had been a meeting two weeks ago before work began but it had to be abandoned because of obstruction by the residents. Vaughan Feaver, a spokesman for the contractors, said the contamination was being properly dealt with.

Royal sons storm Canada

PRINCE Charles flies into Canada today for a brisk tour of Vancouver with his sons William and Harry before they disappear into the mountains for a private four-day skiing holiday, writes Luke Harding in Vancouver.

The highlight is a visit tomorrow by the two princes to Vancouver's Pacific Space Centre, where they will try out what one aide described as a "rather exciting virtual reality space ride". The excursion amounts to Prince William's first public engagement since his mother's death nearly seven months ago.

After 24 hours in Vancouver, the royal party departs for Canada's largest ski resort of Whistler, which is renowned for its reliable snow and mild Pacific air.

The resort, Canada's largest, offers reliable snow, mild Pacific air and a degree of privacy.

Charles has been invited to Whistler by Galen Weston, the Canadian grocery tycoon, and his wife Hilary, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. He will stay with his sons in a private chalet.

Canadian interest in the visit has been muted. The Vancouver Sun newspaper devoted a modest front page column to the tour yesterday, while the Globe and Mail hurried the story on page five. Attitudes towards the monarchy in Canada remain mixed: a poll on the eve of Charles's last visit two years ago, revealed that 47 per cent of Canadians would like to see the institution abolished.

Royal sale fa
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Canada

The Guardian Monday March 23 1998

BRITAIN 5

Royal car boot sale fails to break record as rivals pitch in

John Ezard reports on titanic event which raised £20,000 for charity

THERE was a scare about melting garden gnomes, and the dodgy trader's holy grail — 23 pirate videos of the film Titanic — failed to materialise.

So did Prince Charles. Instead, we had to make do with Lauren Booth, Cherie Blair's half-sister, plus the Mayor of Chelmsford.

Yet the Prince of Wales's first car boot sale proved a titanic occasion at Great Leighs, near Braintree, Essex yesterday. It drew nearly 20,000 customers to a class of event which normally attracts a fraction of that number.

Called Loot Boot, it narrowly failed to get into the Guinness Book of Records as the world's biggest, chiefly because it fell victim to its own fame. The scale of its £12,000 advance advertising roused the wheeler-dealing instincts of other promoters.

Rival "giant car boot sales" multiplied along the roads to the Prince's Trust charity's site at the Essex showground. These lured only a few hundred Sunday motorists but siphoned off enough traders to leave Charles's sale 200 short of the Guinness record of 1,000 stalls.

Even so, the venture made up to £20,000 for the trust — and its pulling power raised an operation normally linked with car parks and stolen goods to the level of a county show. Ms Booth was there as trust representative.

"It has been the mother of all boot sales," said Icky Hussein, marketing manager of the mart magazine Loot, which was asked by the trust to sponsor it because these sales are popular with young people. The

royal link brought a crack-down on pirate videos and CDs, flimsy clothing, fake perfumes, untested gas fires, counterfeit long-life batteries and other rackets of the trade.

The showground had more than 20 staff checking stalls, which ruled out the hugely sought-after Titanic videos, seen at another Essex sale last week and said to have come from a US base in Saudi Arabia.

But the standard wares of any backstreet market got through the net. "Honk if you're looking for hunk" car stickers, 40p each or £3 for ten; boxer shorts, £2 each or three for £5. So did the gnomes — made by pouring heavily sanded concrete into moulds.

"It's only the point that holds them together," warned Arthur, a retired Essex man who has run a small stall with his wife Val for 16 years. "As soon as it starts raining, they'll melt."

"Most of a dealer's money is made buying and selling from other dealers early in the morning. As soon as you drive in, they come running after your van looking in the back to see what you've got."

"A lot of the stuff you see has already changed hands three times; 90 per cent of the stuff you see on the bigger stalls comes from refuse dumps. They'll repair and polish and respray things like children's bikes. They'll sell them all in the end — and they'll all give somebody pleasure."

Icky Hussein said: "We'll have another go at the record. You can't haggle at Benetton, but you come here and it's like a medieval market. It's very human."

Britain to defy EU by ban on 44-tonne lorry

Keith Harper

BRITAIN is to defy the rest of Europe and ban 44-tonne lorries from its roads from next January as the Government seeks to promote a more integrated transport policy.

Ministers believe that allowing 44-tonne articulated vehicles will make it more difficult for the railways to win new business in markets which have been the preserve of road haulage.

Under a European Union directive, Britain is required to accept the heavier lorries from next January. The current limit is 38 tonnes. But the Government is to argue that the move would hinder the prospects for other freight and has to be resisted.

A ministerial source said last night: "This is an important decision which the Government will be making in the next few weeks. The road freight industry does a thorough and efficient job, but there are environmental considerations and it could become too dominant."

"The Government is likely to rule that all lorries currently limited to a maximum weight of 38 tonnes will be able to operate up to 40 tonnes."

It may rule that 44-tonne vehicles can be introduced later, but it wants to allow

rail freight companies "a reasonable opportunity to develop their businesses and to provide industry with an increasingly attractive alternative to road haulage".

The main safety and environmental justification for allowing heavier lorries is that there would be fewer heavy lorries on the roads, but this does not take into account the effect of on local communities of this type of vehicle.

Lawrence Christensen, president of the Freight Transport Association, said 44-tonne lorries would "remove 9,000 vehicles from the road, would save 480 million lorry miles each year and would generate associated benefits to the economy, environment and safety."

"They will not suck freight away from rail and on to road."

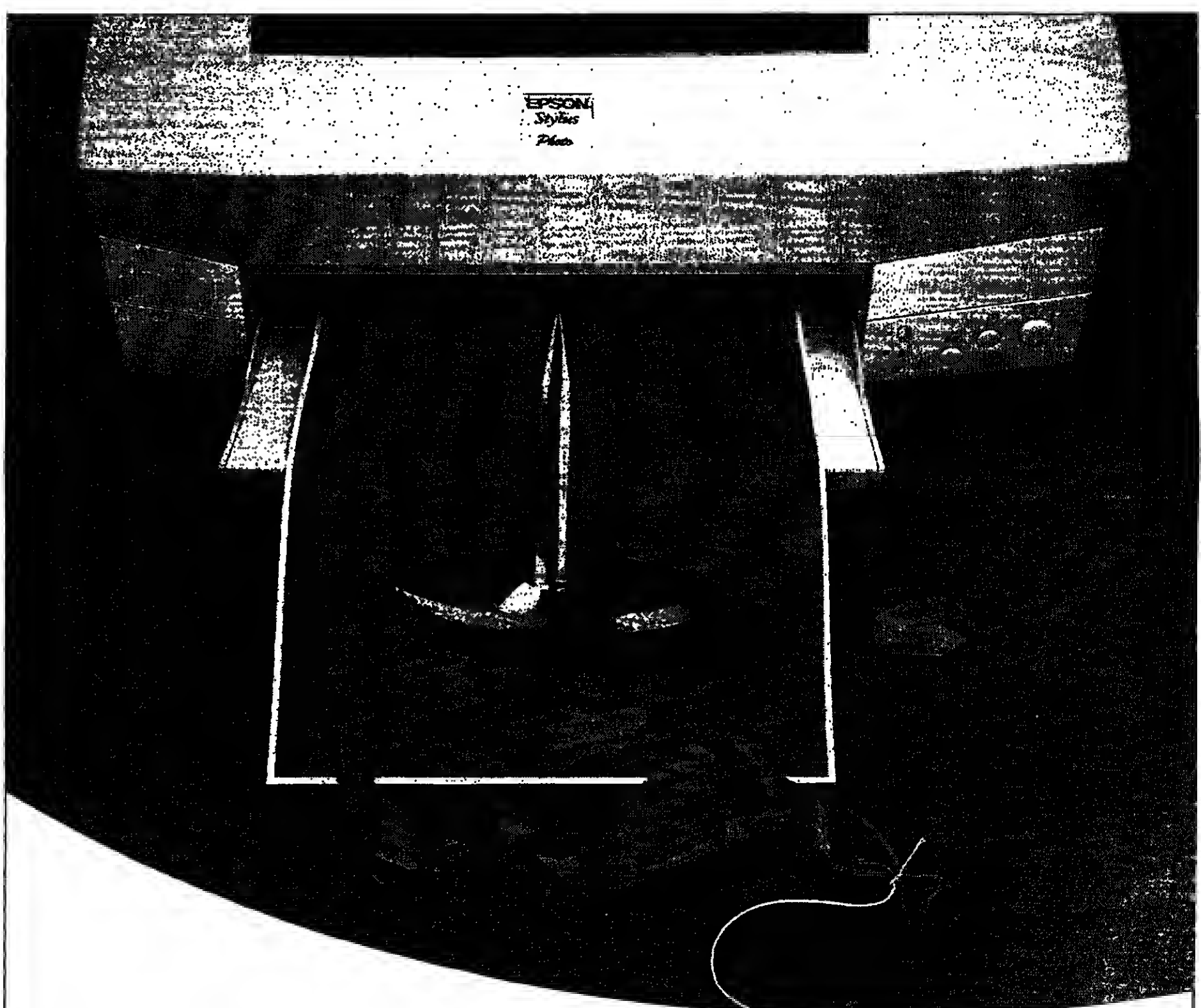
Without the change, industry would opt for the safety of re-equipping their fleets with 40-tonne lorries, he said. "But this vehicle has a very heavy and aggressive drive axle which will be particularly unkind to roads and bridges."

Britain, with Austria, has the lowest weight limit in Europe. Finland has the highest with 53 tonnes, followed by the Netherlands with 50, Denmark with 48, and Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and Belgium with 44.



A customer reflects on some of the items on sale at yesterday's Loot Boot for the Prince's Trust, which attracted nearly 20,000 people to its 800 stalls

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOODWIN



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Moves to end drift-net threat to thousands of dolphins and whales fail to win two-thirds majority

British net ban hits EU wall

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

PLANS to end "wall-of-death" drift nets in European Union waters have had to be abandoned before tomorrow's meeting of EU fisheries ministers, even though a ban was a British priority for its presidency of the community.

Italy and Greece have joined France and Ireland in opposing a ban, mustering enough votes to block the necessary two-thirds majority in favour. Instead there will be what is called an "orientation debate".

The row over drift nets led to the tuna wars in the Bay of Biscay in 1984, when Spanish fishing crews cut French and

British drift nets. The Spanish use ecologically better long-line techniques which catch fewer tuna and do not kill other fish and thousands of dolphins and whales as an unwanted by-catch.

The United Nations called for a ban on drift nets more than 14 miles long in 1982. The EU ratified this and then decided to ban all drift nets. A compensation package for fishermen was agreed, with a phase-out to the end of 1994, but this did not happen.

The main pressure for a ban originally came from the United States, which was appalled by the havoc caused by 30-mile-long Japanese drift nets in the Pacific. Now Italy — which has the largest drift net fleet in Europe — is the villain. It faces court action

by US environmental groups which, if successful, will prevent \$1 billion of fish exports to the US each year.

With 500 vessels and 3,000 workers, the Italian armada comprises 90 per cent of the

Among the discarded are up to 3,000 whales and dolphins. Most common are striped dolphins, but sperm whales are also frequent victims.

The French oppose a ban because they have 40 drift net

The US lawsuit seeks to compel the Clinton administration to ban Italian fish imports until Italy stops using drift nets. It has been filed by the Earthjustice Legal Defence Fund, backed by a number of environmental groups.

Patti Goldman, a lawyer who filed the suit, said: "The US secretary of commerce has flouted his legal obligation to identify Italy as an illegal drift netter. US law requires nothing less than a full ban on Italian fish imports."

It is the second case to reach the courts. The first, which was successful, led to an agreement between the US and Italy to phase out the nets, with closure of certain ports and heavy fines. But the legislation to impose the agreement has never reached

the Italian statute book and has been ignored.

Yesterday Britain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food admitted its attempt to ban drift nets had failed so far. "It still remains a priority. We hope we can get some progress on Tuesday and then we will try for an agreement at the last meeting in June," a spokesman said.

Dr Euan Dunn, marine policy officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "The American lawsuit is a timely wake-up call for the Italian government. The Americans have clearly lost patience with the endless procrastination, which is making a mockery of the United States and European law on safe practice for the environment."

Poll setback to Kohl's push for re-election

Ian Traynor in Bonn

HELMUT Kohl's flagging re-election campaign suffered fresh setbacks yesterday when voters in Germany's northernmost state raised their support for the opposition Social Democrats, opinion polls showed dwindling support for him, and senior allies criticised his campaign strategy.

In local elections in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein, the Social Democrats won comfortably. They gained 43 per cent of the vote, doubling the lead they achieved over Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats in 1994 from two to four percentage points.

The Social Democrats be-

'An election campaign is not a sprint but a marathon'

lieve their increased majority in Schleswig-Holstein stemmed mainly from the momentum generated by their challenger for chancellor, Gerhard Schröder.

In an interview published in Bild today, Mr Kohl tried to go on the offensive, warning that a victory in September's general election for the Social Democrats and the Greens would signal economic disaster for Germany.

"An election campaign is not a sprint, but a marathon," he said, seeking to explain away the poor start to his campaign for an unprecedented fifth term in office.

But his warnings were undermined by growing criticism from within his own camp over his campaign strategy. Rainer Barzel, a former CDU leader, admitted

publicly that the Christian Democrats "are very anxious at the moment". He urged Mr Kohl to put himself up for a vote of confidence from the party to bolster morale.

Mr Kohl's campaign manager, Peter Hübner, came in for fierce criticism from CDU MPs. "The campaign has been anything but professional," said Hans-Otto Wilhelm, a CDU MP. A leading industrialist and supporter of Mr Kohl's conservative government, Tyll Necker, repeated calls for the chancellor to stand down even if he wins in September.

Elections for local authorities in Schleswig-Holstein would ordinarily attract little attention. But, as the second of seven ballots this year climaxed in the September national election, yesterday's vote was seen as an important gauge of political currents.

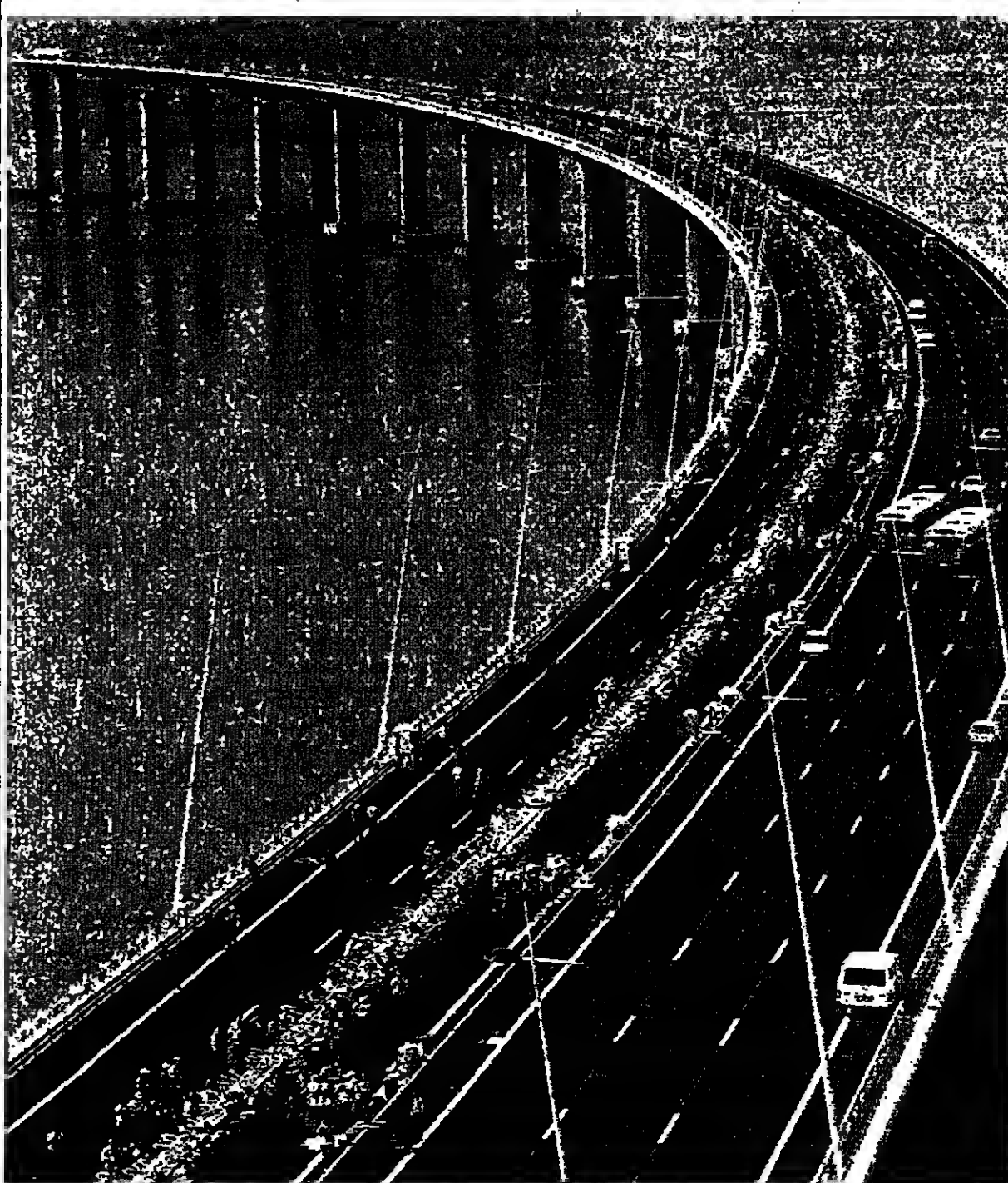
In the state of Lower Saxony earlier this month, Mr Schröder scored a higher-than-expected triumph, with the CDU slumping to its worst postwar performance there. Shortly afterwards, Mr Schröder was given the Social Democratic nomination to challenge Mr Kohl, and the contender's star has been rising ever since.

An opinion poll in Berlin at the weekend showed half the voters in Germany's biggest city wanted Mr Schröder as chancellor while a mere 14 per cent hoped Mr Kohl would stay on.

The next test comes in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt next month. Another weekend survey found the Social Democrats more than 20 percentage points ahead of the CDU in the state. Both parties got 34 per cent of the vote four years ago.

Schleswig-Holstein is governed by a coalition of Social Democrats and Greens under Heide Simonis, the only woman prime minister in Germany's 16 federal states.

Long lunch



Portugal entered the Guinness Book of Records yesterday when 15,000 people sat down to lunch at a three-mile long table to celebrate the opening of the Vasco da Gama bridge, the longest in Europe at 11 miles. PHOTOGRAPH: JOSE MANUEL FRESCO

An old communist hunter stalks an acceptable Kosovan compromise

Jonathan Steele in Pristina

MAHMUT BAKALLI sits in his study surrounded by the trophies of a lifetime: a brown bear which he shot in the mountains between Kosovo and Albania stands by the window.

A dozen stag's heads crowd the wall above him and on a perch over the door an eagle spreads its wings.

But Mr Bakalli, who occasionally hunted with Marshal Tito and the rest of Yugoslavia's communist elite, has no guns left.

"The Serbian police arrived one morning five years ago when I happened to be abroad," he said.

"My wife answered the door and there were five policemen with a list of all my guns: four hunting rifles and a pistol. They demanded she hand them over, which of course she did."

He did not complain, "because they were doing the same to every Albanian, and why should I expect special treatment?"

Ending his favourite recreation was not the worst thing the Serbs did to him. Mr Bakalli was once the head of Kosovo's League of Communists and the most powerful Albanian in Yugoslavia.

He was sacked after students demonstrated in Pristina in March 1981 for



Children joined the spirit of optimism as Kosovo's ethnic Albanians voted in unofficial elections yesterday for a president and parliament to press their case for independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo, was unchallenged for the presidency. PHOTOGRAPH: DUSAN VRANIC

greater rights. Serb hardliners in Belgrade accused him of allowing a huge expansion of higher education without creating job opportunities to match, thereby producing a generation of frustrated young Albanians who became an easy catch for nationalists.

Still a local hero, Mr Bakalli is respected by many Albanians as the province's elder statesman. His wealth of government experience marries him out from Ibrahim Rugova and Adem Demaci, the intellectual former dissident who head Kosovo's two largest parties.

While they demand independence pure and simple, Mr Bakalli has been trying to steer public opinion

towards a compromise. He is expected to be on the negotiating team which Mr Rugova has promised, under American pressure, to set up.

"It is our duty and the duty of the Serbs to organise a dialogue about Kosovo's status, but not decide the outcome before we start," he says.

"When Robert Gelhard, the United States envoy, says no independence for Kosovo, he means no independence outside the pres-

ent international borders of Yugoslavia." Separated from Serbia, Kosovo "could take steps towards integration with Serbia and Montenegro as an entity within a confederation".

He takes the word "entity" from the 1995 Dayton agreement on Bosnia.

International recognition of the Bosnian Serb republic attracted many Albanians towards the same ambiguous formula of de facto independence without legal sovereignty. It would be a new version of the "autonomy" which President Slobodan Milosevic abolished in 1989.

Azem Vilasi, another well-respected former Kosovo communist leader, argues that the international community "cannot accept a second Albanian state in Europe". Kosovo's Albanians should go for "self-determination within the borders of Yugoslavia".

There are several options: a third Yugoslav republic, autonomy with a special status within Yugoslavia, or a protectorate under international control for 10-15 years.

Mr Bakalli and Mr Vilasi agree with the two party leaders that some issues are non-negotiable: talks with the Serb government have to cover Kosovo's constitutional status and cannot be limited by the present Serbian constitution, and there must be an international mediator.

Mormons set free in Russia

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

TWO American Mormon missionaries were freed after five days in captivity in southern Russia yesterday, but were then told to leave the area by its governor.

In the near future all missionaries, including Mormons, will be asked to find another place for their activities, Dmitry Akyatskov, governor of the Saratov region 500 miles south-east of Moscow, said on television.

The missionaries, Andrew Lee Frost, aged 29, from Oregon and Travis Robert Tuttle, also 29, from Arizona, were abducted from a Mormon church in Saratov last Thursday. Yesterday they were driven to the outskirts of the town and set free.

Although the kidnappers had demanded a ransom for their safe return, police said none was paid.

"It's possible that there was an indirect religious motive," said Lawrence Uzzell of the Eston News Agency, which monitors religious freedom in Russia. "The fact that the hostages were Mormons means they would have less sympathy and therefore the kidnappers would have more public support."

The Mormons have been singled out for criticism by Russian nationalists. Two years ago the former security council chief, Alexander Lebed, attacked them as

"mould and filth which have come to destroy the state".

All foreign religious groups and some indigenous minority faiths have enraged the Russian Orthodox church by winning converts from its flock.

According to the new religion law, which was adopted despite opposition from the Vatican, "non-traditional" churches are banned from holding services or publishing literature unless they can prove they have operated legally in Russia for more than 15 years. The law does not state what constitutes proof.

Orthodoxy, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism are given official pre-eminence in the law as traditional religions.

Attacks on rich foreign religions, such as the Mormons, have received much publicity, but it is the well-established Russian minority faiths, particularly Protestants, who are suffering most in the new climate of religious intolerance.

Several Moscow pentecostal groups have reverted to Soviet-era habits and now conduct services in garages or private flats to avoid police harassment. Officially they are illegal.

Professor Donald Jarvis, the mission president for the Mormons in Russia, said yesterday the two freed missionaries and their 80 colleagues in Saratov would stay on.

"Russia's religion law does not preclude our operations," he said. "We are legally registered and hope to carry on work as normal soon."

09/11/2012



Forest fires, some started deliberately to clear land but all exacerbated by drought, are putting a pall of smog across Borneo. PHOTOGRAPH: JONATHAN HEAD

Black skies and empty bowls in Borneo

John Aglionby finds want and misery in the remote villages of East Kalimantan

SURYA cannot remember when she last saw blue sky. "All I know is that it has been like this for months and months," she says, waving towards the blanket of smog, caused by thousands of forest and brush fires, that is enveloping an area of eastern Borneo larger than the United Kingdom.

On a good day visibility is half a mile and the sun resembles a malfunctioning street light on a bad one it is impossible to see more than 50 yards and the sun is nowhere in sight.

The worsening fires are decimating wildlife and raising air pollution to hazardous levels.

But their effect is not Surya's primary concern. Finding the money to buy food for her two daughters and sick husband is a much more pressing problem.

Puffing a cigarette of home-grown tobacco to dull her appetite, she explains that her farm and those of her neighbours in Sekeloa Darat village, in the Indonesian province of East Kalimantan, lost the whole of their annual rice crop, due to be harvested last month.

"No one has any rice, either to feed themselves or to sell to make money. And people have no seeds to plant this year, because they used those up when we had a little rain

in December and thought the drought was over." That proved to be short-lived relief, and continuous rain is not expected until August, which means there will not be another harvest until next February.

Almost 60 per cent of East Kalimantan's rice crop has been lost in the drought this year, and last year only half survived. The crisis is exacerbated by Indonesia's economic slump: the price of the few staples still available has doubled in the cities and more than tripled in rural areas.

World Bank figures show that 20 million of Indonesia's 203 million people are suffering severe food shortages. But the situation is worst in East Kalimantan, where most of the communities are remote and dependent on farming,

and the haze closes the airports and makes air travel impossible.

Nhari, a farmer in Ombau village 10 miles from Sekeloa Darat, has eight people living in his one-room house to share overheads. He owns 2.5 acres of rubber trees but they will not be ready to tap for another three years.

"Those in authority do not really care what happens to us," says Nasar, a village elder in Rigung Baru, 15 miles away. "It wasn't for the gold mine I don't know what we would do."

The mine is run by PT Kelian Equatorial Mining, whose majority shareholder is the Anglo-Australian company Rio Tinto. It employs 1,100 locals and is planning a four-month operation to bring aid to the 67,000 people in the four sub-districts where most of them live.

"Hopefully, our efforts will not only help the people but also raise awareness of the desperate situation here," says its general manager, Alan Roberts. "We're doing our bit, but there's no way we can feed the whole province."

Butler hopeful about talks on inspecting palaces

Heat on as UN arms chief flies in to Iraq

Julian Borger
Middle East Correspondent

RICHARD Butler, the United Nations chief weapons inspector, arrived in Baghdad yesterday as the race began to unearth Iraq's "smoking gun" — hard evidence of concealed weapons of mass destruction. He is expected to open talks with the government today to put to the test the UN's memorandum of understanding with President Saddam Hussein, signed a month ago, aimed at securing unrestricted access for weapons inspectors.

The talks with the deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, seek to pave the way for an inspection of President Saddam's palaces by groups of experts and diplomats between March 24 and April 6. They want to check the sites for evidence of chemical or biological weapons.

Speaking on arrival, Mr Butler said the UN accord had been bolding. "I think I can feel a new spirit and good co-operation from the Iraqi side," the Australian diplomat told reporters.

The accord, signed by President Saddam and the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, averted punitive air raids by the United States and Britain, who have since threatened to strike instantly if Iraq breaks the agreement. They have retained a significant force in the Gulf to police the accord.

Diplomats in Baghdad said the first month of inspections had gone smoothly. The pressure is now on Mr Butler's special commission (Unscm)



'I can feel a new spirit,' said chief arms inspector Richard Butler on arrival in Baghdad

to unearth what one observer termed the "smoking gun", before economic sanctions come up for review in October. The embargo can only be lifted by the UN Security Council once Unscm has certified Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.

After seven inconclusive years during which sanctions have devastated Iraq's economy, Russia, France and China are pressing for an end to the inspections.

"Butler says there are weapons there. The Iraqis are

opening the door and saying, 'Be my guest'. So the race is on," a Western observer said. Unscm has found records proving imports of raw materials for chemical and biological weapons, which it says strongly suggest that Iraq is concealing a significant stockpile of arms. Baghdad claims it has destroyed all banned weapons.

In return for reaffirming free access to Unscm, Iraq won two diplomatic concessions whose significance has yet to be gauged. In visits to eight presidential compounds, the Unscm inspectors will have to be accompanied by senior diplomats from a 20-strong multinational panel. The panel was appointed last Thursday by Mr Annan's representative, Jayantha Dhanapala, a former Sri Lankan envoy to the UN.

The secretary-general has also appointed his own special envoy, Prakash Shah, an Indian diplomat, as a means of opening a direct channel of communication with Baghdad.

Iraqi officials claim the appointment of both UN diplomats implies a dilution in the authority of Mr Butler, whom they accuse of spearheading a US-inspired campaign.

Mr Dhanapala arrived yesterday with Mr Butler, while Mr Shah flew in on a separate plane a few hours earlier.

After a preliminary visit to Baghdad earlier this month, Mr Dhanapala told journalists he had been given "very strong assurances" that the Iraqi government would honour the letter and spirit of the UN agreement.

Helicopters start water-bombing Amazonian blaze

HELICOPTERS began dumping water yesterday on the fires that have been devastating the northern Amazonian rainforest for several weeks as the international effort to contain the blaze got under way, writes Alex Bellos in Boa Vista.

Brazilian fire chiefs said that they hoped to extinguish them all in 20 days.

Primary rainforest, usually too wet to burn, has been catching alight all over the state of Roraima,

causing the region's worst ecological disaster and threatening the livelihood of the Stone-Age Yanomami Indians.

Venezuelan firefighters joined the operation yesterday, alongside 100 men and four water-dumping helicopters from the Argentine air force.

A team of jungle communication experts from the Amazonian division of the Brazilian army is due today.

The fires were started by farmers burning their land

and exacerbated by an El Niño-induced drought and high winds. There has been no rain since December and none is expected until the middle of next month.

Attempts to control the blaze have been hampered by the lack of local manpower and equipment and two months' wrangling over money between federal officials and the state governor.

At the weekend fires were spreading further into sensitive environmental areas.

Pardon from Cambodian king gives ousted Prince Ranariddh chance to contest polls

Nick Cumming-Bruce
in Kuala Lumpur

CAMBODIA'S King Norodom Sihanouk yesterday issued an amnesty for his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, opening the way for the ousted prime minister to contest a general election and reviving the peace process.

King Sihanouk's pardon erased two criminal convictions handed to Prince Ranariddh in show trials earlier this month.

The pardon followed a request from the second prime minister, strongman Hun Sen, who ousted the

prince in a coup last July. Prince Ranariddh received jail terms totalling 35 years and a demand for \$50 million in compensation after a military court in Phnom Penh convicted him of smuggling weapons and plotting a coup with the Khmer Rouge.

Prince Ranariddh denied the charges but agreed to be tried in absentia and accept the pardon as part of a Japanese-sponsored peace plan.

Mr Hun Sen wrote to the king on Saturday to ask him to "grant a complete amnesty for the crimes and the payment of compensation". No date has so far been set for Prince Ranariddh's return.

The Phnom Penh government will be seeking commitments from foreign governments to help with the estimated \$30 million cost of the elections.

Diplomats say several obstacles block elections, which the government wants to hold at the end of July. Violence and intimidation against Hun Sen's opponents have led to doubts that a fair and free poll is possible.

Another potential hazard could come from Prince Ranariddh's military loyalists, waging a last-ditch resistance from the northern border with Thailand and co-ordinating with Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

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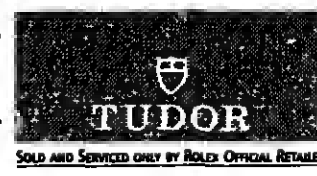
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Derek Malcolm
on the Oscars

G2 page 4

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Comment

Lagos Diary

Alex Duval Smith

THE Lonely Planet guide puts it well: "Nigeria is to Africa what China is to the world. It is home to one in five Africans," etc. You could add that Lagos is mean, murderous and moneygrabbing.

But to stop at that would be to forget that the 10 million inhabitants of this sprawling city are to resourcefulness what Newton was to science. The last few days' severe foowell (fuel) and light (electricity) crisis has provided a new challenge.

Like most road junctions, Falomo roundabout on Ikoyi Island is clogged to a goshaw (standstill) with cars queuing for foowell. Dis cause kiss (leads to prangs) and much dialogue which is not nice in de ear: "You de mean?" (are you mad?), "I go root your tyre" ("I'll slash your tyres") and "dem no born you well" (you bastard).

Felix, a 20-year-old with a metre-long hosepipe and his mouth for tools, has made money by meticulously decanting foowell from one moto (car) to another. The result is usually one quench (broken-down moto) and the other peke (making a get-away worthy of a Brazilian footballer). It all takes Felix a step closer to starch (wealth).

But Felix just chop kpakpi (eats staple meal) next to some Lagos traffic policemen. They are on their way to moneybags stacks of low-denomination banknotes, carried in plastic bags if they post themselves at a free-flooding junction.

One eke (policeman) I came across charged 50 Naira (35p) for going straight ahead and N100 (70p) for turning left — more expensive because it involved stopping oncoming traffic. My bargaining position was not helped when he "sight dat oyibo numba" (saw the white board — saw) in the back seat. This implied grab (money).

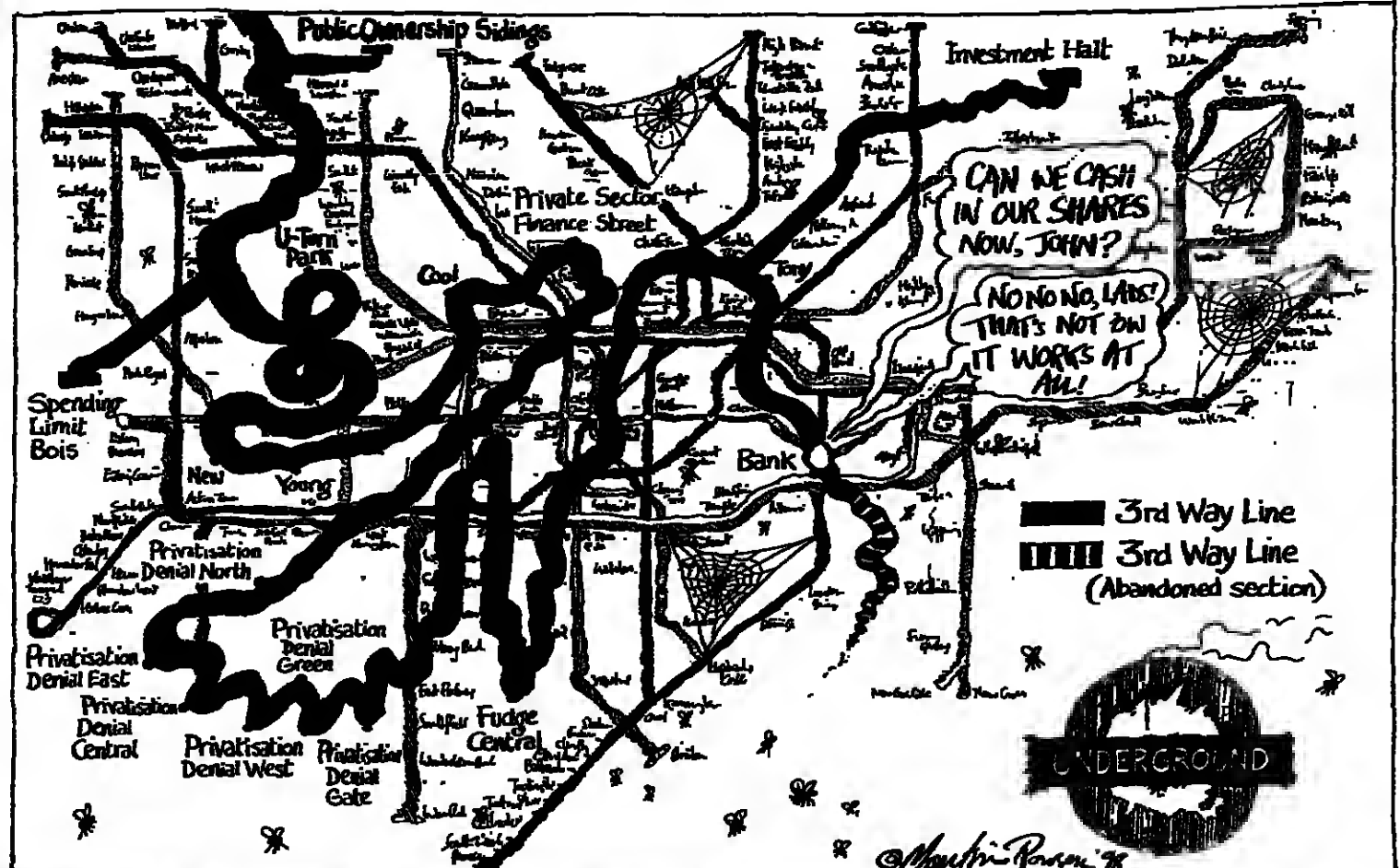
IN THIS crisis-ridden country where money is all, listening to Nigerian Pidgin (NP) is the cheapest way to get close to what the Catholic Number one Man (the Pope) referred to on Saturday as the "extraordinary capacity" of Nigerians. He was encouraging them to work towards democracy and human rights.

Just as inventive as Lagos money-making schemes is the constantly evolving NP — a language which was born out of too many awkward silences with 15th-century Portuguese settlers, and evolved into an common tongue for 100 million Nigerians in 250 ethnic groups. In some parts of the country, it is the language of the television news.

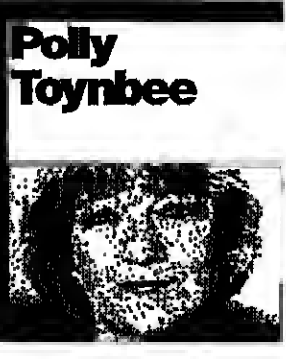
The language, which changes every day and is different all over the country, includes versions of words from English, Portuguese, Dutch, Hausa, Yoruba, Twi and about 20 other tongues. To make it useable, Nigerians have informally agreed on a common version.

This allows for the language to have a literary use: as far as we know, it was first written down in 1785 by Antera Duke, an Ekiti chief and trader who kept a diary. Dat wa dose days. Now, in days wid no starch and soja come, soja go (military regimes), Nigerians have only their "extraordinary capacity" dat de holy fada bear. E no afraid dey catch im and speaks out for human rights.

Nigeria may be to Africa what China is to the world. In de Lagos street wat yu si is dat pidgin provides freedom of expression. Especially since it's no longer a case of "you chop, I chop" (live and let live) or even a humorous "monkey work, baboon chop" (baboon being the government). Now what people say is "dem shop we etaw".



Efficiency? Florence Nightingale could teach the NHS a thing or two



Polly Toynbee

MORE money for the NHS. Hurrah. Frank Dobson announced last week there will be \$500 million more. Managers have been ordered to get waiting lists down below the 1.16 million Labour inherited, by next year. But should we really fly the flag?

One chief executive of a health authority said: "I don't know whether to laugh or cry." Others were relieved they wouldn't now have to make cuts to deal with the waiting lists, but are Labour's priorities the right ones? One executive said: "I'll have to spend that precious money on surgery instead of my bad mental health service, or the young children waiting a year for speech therapy they need now." NHS managers don't complain in public for the laws of *omerta* that silenced them under the Tories are as tough as ever. Absolute silence from the health service is all that's required at present — that's what this hung is for.

Election winning is the besetting disease of the NHS. From its inception political imperatives have driven medical priorities. Performance Indicators (PIs) set by politicians distorted its priorities under the Conservatives. PIs were known wryly as *Perverse Incentives*. PIs demanded crude counting of treatments — throughput per bed and numbers of "consultant episodes". PIs never told us whether people were getting better, only that more were counted. Hospitals hit their targets, politicians could boast, vast sums were spent but no one knew what good was done. Even Florence Nightingale knew more about outcomes, as she recorded patients leaving her care as "dead, relieved or unrelieved".

which is more than we know nowadays. Now electioneering is perverting NHS spending again. Before the election many begged Labour not to pledge "waiting lists will be shorter". But campaign managers demanded it. Waiting lists are what news editors understand, because they're the prime measures politicians use. Health professionals shuddered at those election posters, but hoped there was room for manoeuvre. Could that be interpreted as cutting waiting times, not overall waiting lists? A patient couldn't care less how many others are waiting, only how long the wait will be. But no, Dobson insists it means what it says: there will be fewer names on lists.

Here's the problem: with effort and money, Virginia Bottomley cut the times people waited significantly. But despite that, the total number waiting has risen enormously since the day the NHS began with a ready-made 600,000 list. Why? The usual reasons — more new treatments, more old people, more demanding patients. Also, when lists get short, GPs refer more people, accelerating demand. But most of all, the waiting list is the cost regulator, the escape valve. With a fixed, capped budget, if there isn't enough money, two things happen — waiting lists go up and hospitals fall into debt. (A third thing also happens — doctors start to demand that politicians take responsibility for rationing, from which politicians flee ashen-faced). The NHS is suffering the hardest financing of the past two decades, so both waiting lists and debts are soaring. Most other Western health services don't have waiting

lists, but that's because they are partly insurance based so there is no spending cap. It means their costs spiral uncontrollably and it's never clear they get better value for money. There's a lot to be said for the discipline of capping so long as there's enough money in the pot. But how much is enough? No one knows. All we know is it needs an extra 3 per cent a year or it runs into trouble, as now. Some cynical old NHS heads are whispering — tell it not in Gath, but this is a good time to be in deep trouble. There's only one show in town and that's the comprehensive spending review, so let's show our wounds and wave our shrouds. There are high hopes — hopes that the spending review will offer a bonanza, at last enough money after a lifetime of stop-go.

WELL, maybe. But while waiting lists are still the prime measure in parliament — so for every penny spent on fire-fighting surgery (some of doubtful use), more mad people will roam the streets, more old people will deteriorate at home until they claim an emergency bed. The NHS may gain in the spending review, because its current desperate plight is only silenced in that hope. But there is enough to change its horizons? Whitehall is abuzz with schemes for dealing with falling children, homeless families, disaster schools, derelict estates, drugs and young criminals. The talk is of intensive nurseries, parenting schemes for callous mothers, weavers to work — things that change the future. Compare that with the great hulk of the NHS, the old bear

in a bottomless pit. True, all the issues of social exclusion include health — but that's the dull bit. New Labour is excited by changing hearts and minds, saving lost souls, remoralising the poor. Bodies, mainly of old people, are far less exciting. That's where the NHS has to move fast. To make the case for big extra money, it has to seize the imagination the way social programmes do. Tessa Jowell did well with her green paper. Our Healthier Nation, full of social targets that resonate with Labour's social goals. "It's brilliant, but how can we do it if all the money has to go on surgery?" one manager said glumly. How do we escape the waiting list stranglehold? There are now programmes that can measure the overall health and well-being of the nation. One is EuroQol, used in America and Europe, which can test patients before and after treatment, or the whole population. It takes one minute to answer as patients assess themselves on five criteria: their mobility, self-care, ability to carry on usual activity, pain/depression. It reveals the health of the whole person, not the bit that belongs to one Whitehall department. (Hip operations have a high health gain, but so could community arts prove what they offer the depressed, for instance.) Health ministers, intellectually fascinated by effectiveness and outcomes, really want to know what works. If the overriding target were to improve this well-being score every year, it would be a far better way for politicians to take the national pulse. It would give a fair weight to spending in the community and stop waiting lists sucking up every spare penny.

MPs must act to free future members of the Welsh Assembly Undo this gag

Richard Norton-Taylor

THIS week, the Commons will be asked to impose unprecedented restrictions on the free speech of elected representatives. Few MPs seem to care.

If the Government has its way, members of the Welsh Assembly will face the prospect of a criminal conviction if they reveal any "damaging" information about Britain's international relations.

Assembly officials — recruited by Whitehall — could thus eject the public whenever EU regional grants, European commission plans to protect the environment, or Brussels proposals designed to promote jobs, are discussed. Assembly members could be arrested if they disclose

discussed behind closed doors. It may be unlikely, but it is possible, because of a little-noticed clause in the Government of Wales Bill, whose final report, stage will be debated by the Commons on Wednesday. Clause 79 states: "An assembly member is a Crown servant for the purposes of the Official Secrets Act 1989." The act covers any information about defence matters, or "national security" whose disclosure is "damaging", as well as any information about "international relations".

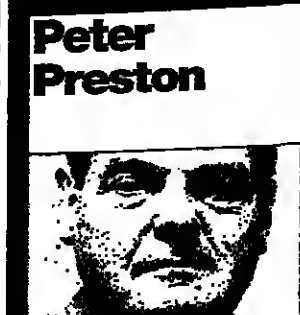
The clause was not mentioned in the white paper on the bill: it was passed on the nod during the second-reading debate, and throughout the committee stage which is supposed to provide the opportunity for detailed scrutiny. Neither the point of principle it raises, nor its practical implications, were remarked upon, not even by Welsh Nationalists.

It took a backbench Tory MP, Richard Shepherd, a persistent opponent of official secrecy, to appreciate its significance. Shepherd raised it with Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor and the Government's chief constitutional guru. Irvine replied that he had no "live recollection" of the "specific point" arising during the committee stage. He passed the question to the Welsh secretary, Ron Davies. "Functions of the assembly could be delegated to the executive committee, and also to subject committees".

In plain English, this meant that all assembly members may be appointed to executive committees with access to classified information and thus must be bound by the Official Secrets Act. A Welsh Office spokeswoman clarified: "We want to make sure nothing has been left out". Further inquiries elicited an explanation from researchers in the Commons library. The assembly's committees would function "on the local government model", they explained. Yet local council

members are not bound by the Official Secrets Act, and not classed as Crown servants, even though they have access to highly sensitive information — relating to contracts, for example. Davies, meanwhile, put it about that the "gagging clause" merely goes to show how important the functions of the assembly

Beware Big Brother



Peter Preston

IN THE beginning is the Big Idea: and then the weevils get at it. Some of the weevils will be out in force in Birmingham next month at a special EU conference. Other, still grander weevils are formed into what the European Commission calls a high-level group, due to report by autumn. Meanwhile, the good folk of the Internet watch foundation are chewing away already.

The Net is an idea whose time has almost come in Britain (where a third of us have a computer handy). Germany and Holland aren't far behind, but the rest of Europe lags badly. Only four Europeans in every 100 have access to an Internet provider — and only one in 100 professes any interest in the revolution (as Kevin d'Arcy writes in the new issue of Spokesman magazine) has years to run. This, however, doesn't mean that the bureaucrats and politicians remain quiescent. On the contrary, they're lathered fast. It can't be controlled. So somehow they must find a way.

Nothing on the face of it, could seem more benignly natural. The Net is full of many things, but one of them is porn: unrestricted filth that kids, pumping away at solitary keyboards, can download into their homes. Anxious parents are the underpinning of the watch foundation. Jack Straw, an archetypal anxious parent, bovers a few feet from the screen.

But how do you get a grip on something as vast and insatiable and fundamentally uncontrollable as the Internet? Governments stumble at the first hurdle. Laws, in one country or one continent, cannot be made to work. Statutory regulation is a technical nightmare. Enter the alternative wonder of self-regulation. Andrus Whitman Smith, the founder of the Independent and Straw-selected president of the British Board of Film Censors, is the very personification of modern self-regulation. He brought a furrow to the dilemmas of the Net a few days ago. It wasn't like the movies, he said: there was no box office vetter to see whether the audience was under 18. Nor was it like videos. No shops to sell you anything, and be prosecuted if they err. No saintly BBFC snipping out the dodgy bits. But maybe, thought Andrus, there were other ways.

The American computer games industry, for instance, has established a voluntary code of practice, labelling its products on a sex-and-violence sliding scale. Next, perhaps, the major Internet players — proprietary web sites, Net searchers like Yahoo and Lycos, the big companies with much to lose — could be steered into electronically tagging their output so that little Johnny in his bedroom couldn't get at the undesirable stuff. "Each individual, each family, will decide what to accept and what to reject."

THAT sounds all right, then? The press, after all, is in favour of self-regulation. How can it (jib over its spreading to the Net? Smile while the nice medicine slips down. In fact, we're on the sharp edge of a true dilemma. The clammy embrace of an overwhelmingly controlling state, they can muzzle your newspapers and neuter your television: but they can't do anything about the Net. The minute a financial trading centre depends on information. The blanket of fear begins to shred.

Or head north a little across Asia. Liberal Britain has waxed righteously indignant, these past few weeks, over Mr Murdoch's fecklessness to Chinese pressure. The rulers of

Beijing have got it (sometimes rather hysterically) in the neck. But Hong Kong, now or in the future, can't do without the Net. Nor can a Shanghai or Canton hell-bent on development. There is no better way of keeping the doors, thus forced half open, swinging ever wider through the years. How to keep in touch with a friend in Iran? Send an e-mail. How do the publishers of Tashkent sell their wares to the world? They start a web site.

This isn't a modest by-product of www.com. It lies at the heart. It is the means of spreading the word, and the word is freedom. The old Reuter's hand, Michael Nelson, has just published a terrific book charting how steam radio — the spoken word — undermined autocracy in Eastern Europe. Here is the written word on the electronic march.

BUT what, in such a context, does self-regulation add up to? It may be the best way for newspapers, via complaints commissions and the rest, but there it has one great defect of principle. If you're a little magazine with a mission, who doesn't for whatever reason sign up to the sacred codes that you're an outsider, despised and vulnerable. Your freedom to say what you think is shrunken.

That's not necessarily fatal. Your policies are the regular press, and enough of them may rally to your side. Is that quite the case with the Internet, though? Bill Gates is many things, included the arch proponent of his right to make pots of money. But he is the commercial bearer of the word, out a crusader for it. And the same, almost automatically, is true of all the large players in cyberspace

markets. They wish to sell software and products. They have to compete in a world where competition entails public (and governmental) acceptability.

Crunch time. This isn't a violent video game. It is a deadly earnest struggle to make sure that the Net stays free of sticky fingers, of pressures and burgeoning controls. And the difficulty is that what will work against porn will also work, just as effectively, against the spread of news and the run of opinion. If there are ways to throttle that back, then can anyone seriously see the rulers of Beijing passing opportunity by? Will Singapore's politicians benignly hit the Exit button? Will EU conferences resist the temptation to meddle and plan in the name of public morality?

Self-regulation? There is not the anxious face of parental concern. It is the beginning of the end of the Big Idea. And the potential loss to humanity vastly exceeds the gain. Of course we all care about our monitoring what they're doing, involvement in the choices they make. That isn't, however, a burden which can be shuffled off to legions of belief that somebody else should do something else but — and the great and good will lose a far greater game for us without a second thought.

It is a deadly earnest struggle to make sure the Net stays free of sticky fingers



Geoffrey Meade, an adviser, says 'if you ever been on the tube?'

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Labour's other Dome

The welfare plan fills out

IDEALLY, this week's green paper on restructuring the welfare state should have preceded the budget, not followed it. Indeed, ideally the green paper should have preceded the welfare reform roadshows on which the Prime Minister and other ministers are still engaged. Last week's budget began the restructuring process but only dealt with one corner of the new house with the public still unclear of ministerial intentions for the entire structure. Crucial though the welfare-to-work programmes set out last week will be in any new system, huge questions remain with respect to the millions who will never be able to work, the means by which all programmes will be financed (tax, insurance), and the role of national insurance in the new system. Welfare reform has been Labour's Second Dome — a goal to which they became committed without any clear idea of what they wanted to put inside.

Slowly the details are emerging. Last week's budget marked the most serious

assault on the dependency culture since the second world war. No one who has seen the devastating effects that long-term unemployment generates would ever dismiss the importance of helping people — young, old, lone parents and disabled — back into work. Medical researchers have documented the degree to which long-term unemployment erodes physical and mental health: anxiety, depression, neurotic disorders and suicide all increase while the mortality rate of middle-aged workers doubles. But equally encouraging for anti-poverty campaigners was the readiness of the Chancellor to raise the benefits of poor families who cannot find work. Last week's package was the best budget for poor people since the 1974 budget which Labour produced to bribe its way to a second election victory in the same year. Ironically, what was missing was a readiness by the Chancellor to acknowledge that it was redistributive. Labour has rehabilitated the "p" word (poverty) but still seems intent on the "r" word (redistribution) remaining unutterable.

Yesterday's leaks and interviews were equally encouraging. After weeks of complaint from the Prime Minister about the cost of social security, Frank Field, the minister instructed to provide an overall

design, was unequivocal: "The problem with welfare is not that it costs too much but that it achieves too little." He insisted the Government was "not looking for a cheap social security system but one that works." Ministers are ready to set themselves targets — at least 30 according to the Observer — to measure the progress towards expanding second-tier pensions, increasing the numbers moving from welfare-to-work, and improving the levels of support for children and families. What, alas, was not mentioned in the leaks was an annual poverty audit or a target for narrowing our obscene inequalities.

Tony Blair made it clear at the last Labour conference that he would be shifting some responsibilities from public to private shoulders. Ironically, the easiest shift to make — compulsory contributions for long-term nursing care — is precluded by the royal commission which Labour has set up. Even the Mail would recognise the need to help Middle England avoid having to sell 40,000 homes a year to pay for granny's nursing home costs. A government intent on introducing a guaranteed minimum pension — to help the one million poor pensioners who still do not claim the means-tested help to which they are entitled — will have to make second pen-

sion contributions compulsory, otherwise the modestly paid will have no incentive to save. There is nothing new about compulsory contributions. There is no need for ministerial nervousness. But last week's decision to relieve low paid people of national insurance contributions makes it more difficult to reform this tax. The income ceiling above which no contributions are made is no longer available. Yet, if more fairness is to be achieved — as the Prime Minister insists be wants — more redistribution is needed. The Government's gradualist approach is designed to reduce opposition, but the danger remains the longer ministers delay the more resistant the public becomes to the principle.

Dyb dyb dob dob

Is Frank's best good enough?

DOBBO does it again. Frank Dobson was back in the dock last night for threatening health service chiefs who failed to get down their waiting lists. True to his reputation as a bruiser, the Health Secretary told one interviewer he needed to adopt an "or else"

approach to ensure his waiting list initiative was not undermined by a few under-performing hospitals. He conceded he could not get rid of paid managers but he could send in advisers and he did have power over their boards — "chairs and non executive directors only hold their positions while I have confidence in them". Opposition parties immediately accused him of "scapegoating" senior management.

Contrary to his message, the NHS can cut waiting lists without any overt threats. The Conservatives cut the over 12-month list from 250,000 in 1989 to just 5,000 in 1996. Numbers spiralled upwards only after ministerial interest waned. As policy analysts have demonstrated, one major problem for the NHS is the priorities which ministers pile up during any one parliament. A second is a ministerial obsession with numbers on waiting lists, rather than reducing waiting periods and achieving some form of clinical priority list. A third is late ad hoc increases to health spending rather than providing a guaranteed sustainable annual increase — say three per cent — which would allow the NHS to plan its services properly. One reason why waiting lists have risen is because of Labour's cash squeeze since the election. Why didn't the bruiser make more public fuss about that?

Letters to the Editor

A rocket for the racist

IF THE Merton Show featuring Bernard Manning's racist comments (Barnard, March 21) had been shown on one of the commercial channels, I would have boycotted products advertised during its showing. Had it been shown on one of the pay channels I would have cancelled my subscription. What makes me frustrated and sick to the stomach is that I cannot stop paying my licence fee. Dipak Ghosh, Bridge of Allan, Stirling.

YOU describe Britain's latest foray into space which came to grief among Dartmoor heather as engineered by an "amateur rocket scientist." (Rocket man vows to pick up pieces, March 21) If the director of the Space Technology Laboratory at the University of Salford is indeed an amateur, then small wonder New Britain has no satellite in orbit. Tom Jaine, Totnes, Devon.

YOUR correspondent, Roger Beckett, is correct in saying the London Watermen have exclusive passenger transport rights in the Port of London (Letters, March 18). The prosperity of the River Thames has been greatly enhanced by the Watermen's efforts. Through their long training they have the necessary skills to negotiate the treacherous tides, the bridges and river currents — all in the cause of transporting goods and passengers safely. The training has to be ratified by the Port of London Authority. Very few others would be deemed competent to deal with the vast crowds of passengers expected on the Thames during the millennium year. The Watermen's Company, incidentally, has had both girls and boys as apprentices. Alan Lee Williams, Chairman, Transport on Water Association, London.

Spinning the church into the 21st century

THE task of "producing media-friendly bishops and appropriate spinning of stories" (Our irrelevant church, March 20) is cosmetic in comparison with the deeper, essential task of helping congregations towards an appropriate Christian faith for the new millennium. Most Christians still believe a hotch-potch of first century world-view, neo-Platonism, and evangelicalism you can still graft on to but not weave into contemporary life. If the Church of England is "culturally light years behind the rest of society" it's much to do with the theological complacency of its members. Many clergy are content to trot out the jargon and remain closed to the challenging questions which come up all round them. Religion is constantly made to serve the gods of defensiveness and ready-made answers rather than be allowed to inspire exploration.

A willingness to face and respond to the deepest challenges and questions of the

spiritual life is the change of heart the Church of England most urgently needs. Rev Nicholas Bradbury, Rector of Horfield, Bristol.

OF COURSE Jesus had spin doctors. They wrote in the half century or so after his death and their writings bear the assiduous hand of Mark, Luke, John and Paul. Some of the conceptual framework they used to describe the significance of that life would have been unfamiliar to Jesus himself.

Relevance has more to do with what's on offer than with organisation, important though that is. The church needs primarily to work in the realms of values, models and ideas; what must the truth be now for people like to have written about it in the way they did? If I am Markham (Face to Faith, March 14) is right about robustly conservative trends in university theology departments, then there is not much hope of stimulus coming from that quarter. In a

strange parallel to "whoever would save his life will lose it" departments which make theology a pursuit solely for those inside the church fail not only the universities but the church as well. Martyn Evans, Cokermouth, Cumbria.

SURELY nothing will fundamentally change in the Church of England so long as its relationships with clergy are based on medieval institutions? The idea that any modern clergy could deal with disciplinary matters by subjecting its employees to the kind of public trial visited upon the Dean of Lincoln, Brandon Jackson, two years ago, is preposterous.

One understands that there is an emerging consensus in favour of abolition of such public relations disasters, which will be a start. Other manifestations of modernity could include giving clergy employment status without further ado, dealing with the huge unfairness of poverty

pay for parish priests (while some senior clergy enjoy surroundings and lifestyles that even Lord Irvine's florid antecedents would be satisfied with), and replacing the evils of misogyny and homophobia (wherever they exist) with a genuine and tangible commitment to equal opportunities. Dr Chris Ball, National Secretary, Manufacturing Science and Finance Union, London.

WAS your photograph of the Archbishop of Canterbury chosen to illustrate the headline "Our irrelevant church"? You credit Dr Carey with having "backed a raft of Church reforms" yet what more obviously consigns the church to a cultural backwater than the strange garb in which the Primate is bedecked?

On the same page you carry a picture of Lord Irvine wearing wig, breeches and black stockings: how can the church or the legal profession expect to be taken seriously when, at

the dawn of the third millennium they present a public image that suggests they belong in the world of Gilbert and Sullivan? Dr David Smith, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

IF THE Church of England is culturally light years behind the rest of society, how much further behind is the Roman Catholic Church, run by an ageing Pope presiding over an organisation still unhealthily male-dominated, unable to accord females equality of status and esteem? Edwin Townsend-Coles, Oxford.

THE Church of England should note that the successful modernisation of the Labour Party began with the exclusion of the born-again extremists, continued with the defeat of the Die-hard traditionalists and culminated in the triumph of the open-minded non-dogmatic moderates (Leader, March 21). Michael Clarke, London.

Wish you weren't here: paradise lost to belly-aching tourists

THE Dominican Republic has been my sporadic home over the last 10 years and I do not recognise the island you describe (Budget tourists pay price of paradise, March 20). I walk with ease through the city streets and I have stayed for extended periods in one of the capital's poorest slums. I have neither contracted cholera nor been shot at. The Dominican poor in their thousands have seen their homes bulldozed to make way for hotels and tourist monuments. The lucky few have been provided with low-paid jobs, but short-term economic gains are nothing compared to the social and environmental degradation this trade leaves behind.

As the island is once again plundered by Europeans, it is those who live there who are paying the price of "paradise". Hilary Cottam, Santo Domingo.

CANNOT help but feel that the holiday companies do not want to admit to the scale of food-related illness in the Dominican Republic. My wife and I visited it in October last year and, although the resort (Luperon, four-star) was extremely nice and the local people very friendly, the food hygiene was appalling. The buffet and the eating area were open to the elements and it was not unusual to see the salad, cheeses, cold meat etc covered in flies. You almost had to eat with one hand whilst

shooting the flies off with the other. Both my wife and I were ill and, judging by the smell of the toilets, other holiday-makers were as well. Many of my friends who have been to the DR have had diarrhoea; two spent two nights in a Dominican hospital with severe food poisoning and are now trying to get their money (and their health) back. K V Harris, London.

WHAT is the true price of tourism in "paradise"? Perhaps it is that the fragile economy of a developing country, dependent on tourism, is at the mercy of the whims of Thomson and Air-tours' customers.

I recently spent an independent week on the island, staying in spotless accommodation costing less than £10 a night. I found people universally friendly, relaxed and helpful. I felt safer than in Europe and believe that the armed guards placed outside the hotel complexes, many of which are foreign-owned, serve only to convince guests that it is dangerous to venture beyond their manicured grounds. The Thomson flight video advises customers not to dive in the shallow end of a pool or to leave a sunbather on the stove unattended. Perhaps it is a basic lack of common sense that is the main cause of most tourists' problems. Cerys Heeder, London.

Make it work

MADELINE Bunting describes a workplace as a battlefield that will be familiar to too many readers (Sell your soul to the company store, March 20). The challenge to both sides of industry, in an era of growing competition and limited resources, is to respect essential human dignity while delivering high quality results. The jargon may induce wincing, but why shouldn't employers take pride in "adding value"? Why shouldn't managers take pride in offering generous terms and conditions?

Effective consultation and dialogue at work will help businesses meet the challenges of the future. Adversarial industrial relations will have no part to play. Stefan Stern, London.

ALL-NIGHT SESSIONS CAN BE RUN IF YOU MAKE UP A FEW GUARDIAN JOURNALISTS IN THE EARLY HOURS

HOUSE COMMONS

Try to keep up

DOES the editor know that his journalists go to bed early? What other explanation can there be for the comment that Labour women MPs went home and only the male of the species braved the all-night debate on the minimum wage (March 20)? For those of us on the committee (including eight Labour women) this was not-

ing new. We'd already sat through two all-night sittings, including the longest-ever committee of the Commons (over 20 hours). There are only two options open to us insomniac women: 1. Wear those bright red and pink jackets that journalists are so rude about so that we can be easily identified. 2. Make Guardian journalists stay up late too. Angela Smith MP, House of Commons.

Tale of a teenage mother

AS ONE of those young girls who produced a baby instead of GCSEs — or O-levels in my case — I take exception to some of the sentiments expressed in the half in your columns. Instead of asking why young girls get pregnant, Mary Crawford (Letters, March 20) should ask why young girls engage in sexual activity. I would refer her to the statistics of childhood sexual abuse, particularly incest. Childhood statistics suggest that nine out of 10 children reporting abuse cite their own families as the perpetrators. If sex has been the currency of nurturing and affection for years they may just ride off effortlessly into sex with others, the only difference being that, as soon as ovulation occurs, they can get pregnant. All deviant forms of sexuality: child

abuse, prostitution, paedophilia and adolescent pregnancy are a continuum of the same problem. The other aspect which righteous adults try to deny is that sex is nice. For some young women with low self-esteem saying yes to sex is the only thing they feel empowered to do. Okay, I only got two O-levels but I eventually graduated at Bachelors and Masters level and am currently a doctoral student. Don't give up on us Mary! Name and address supplied.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge letters. The Country Diary is on Page 16

Endpiece: Brainy Brown

Roy Hattersley

WHEN, back in 1964, Jim Callaghan introduced his first budget, he faced three almost insurmountable problems — a persistently overvalued pound, a persistent balance of payments deficit and the general belief that Chancellors of the Exchequer have power to manage the economy. All political parties agreed that the level of unemployment could be directly determined by Treasury policy. We were all socialists then. And, at least in our assumptions about the role of the state, we were wrong. Lord Callaghan was one of the early converts to the market. Long before the global market had emasculated the authority of national government,

he told the Labour Party conference that "the cosy world where full employment could be guaranteed at the stroke of a pen... no longer exists." Indeed, in common with the mood of the time, he went on to wonder (without even a touch of sentiment) if it had ever existed in the beneficial form of which latter-day Keynesians spoke so nostalgically.

Margaret Thatcher was less concerned with examining the future. She, together with Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson — her first two Chancellors — believed that the best a government could do was create the conditions for economic success and leave the rest to individual enterprise. Several times — most notably by creating the catastrophic credit and spending boom in 1987 — they set the wrong scene. But they were absolutely consistent in their application of the principle that government could only clear the road to prosperity. Men and women of unequal character and capabilities would have to decide for themselves how far they travelled. If some of them fell by the wayside, Mrs Thatcher relied on her own version of the Good Samaritan parable

to justify their distress. To say that last week's budget was based on a parallel view of personal responsibility is a fact, not a criticism. Very often, the language in which it was set out sounded less like a promise than a challenge. The idea that the noble proletariat is denied employment by the failures of the capitalist system has been replaced by the notion that some men and women prefer not to work. Others are encouraged to live in idleness by the welfare state and the mores of modern society.

The budget was dedicated to encouraging human endeavour. Baring a Labour Chancellor, Brown believed that the Government needed to provide a wider range of incentives than Howe and Lawson could ever have imagined possible. They cut the top rate of income tax. He provided tax breaks for the low paid. But all three are united in spirit. In the end, it is up to individuals to do their best for themselves and their families.

The brilliance of Brown's budget — an intellectual if not an ideological triumph — was the way in which it combined, indeed, harmonised, a whole series of different ideas on the best way to put the

country back to work. The only theory which has been completely abandoned required a reduction in interest rates, to encourage investment, and a reduction in the value of the pound to promote exports. But neither of those, in my opinion necessary, policies would have been in keeping with the budget's general thrust. It was not intended to affect the economy directly. It was meant to encourage, induce (and sometimes even coerce) men and women to behave in ways which brought improvement about.

In case that sounds (despite my earlier denials) like an attack on Gordon Brown, it must be emphasised at once that, measured against traditional socialist criteria, the budget was far better than the Chancellor himself made out. Although he refused the suggestion on the BBC Today programme, it will redistribute income from the rich to the poor. And although there will be no general increase in the level of income support, unemployed mothers will enjoy the full effect of the new and improved child benefit. Unfortunately, speaking with compassion about the poor in general blunts the psychological cutting edge of the welfare-to-work reforms. Almost

certainly, Brown prefers an examination of the other ideas on which his budget was based.

It was a budget which promoted the 19th century version of social and economic mobility. We cannot be certain that, at least in the short run, it will provide opportunities to work. That requires the creation of jobs which do not now exist and may not, for some time, be produced by the tax and national insurance incentives which are offered to employers. But it certainly removes barriers to work — as William Ewart Gladstone removed barriers to joining the civil service, the army's commissioned ranks and the ancient universities. Gladstone did not radically change the composition of any of those institutions. Brown's allowances, particularly the child care, will do better. But it will take time for the reforms to work through.

The great and single reservation about Brown's Big Idea is its resurrection of another Victorian notion — the distinction between the deserving and the undeserving poor. The Chancellor knows that the undeserving poor are always with us. For, quite rightly, he proposes to force

into work young men who prefer a giro cheque to a pay packet. But to renege in them (albeit by coercion) the culture of employment is morally different from penalising hopeless 50-year-olds who have not had a job for a full decade. If the whole emphasis is placed on effort and initiative, people who are pathologically short of those commodities will be left to rot in poverty. So will their (by any standard) innocent children. To me, that does not seem like the pattern of a good society.

The force and consistency of Brown's intellectual position is now so strong that, combined with the acclaim which his budget has received, there is little hope of help being provided for the families who would be better fed and clothed if the general level of benefit were to be improved. So, for a year or two, they will suffer. But when welfare to work has finally taken hold, let us hope that Gordon Brown turns his formidable mind to planning their salvation. He is certainly clever enough to provide a solution. The only doubt is whether or not the work ethic, which burns so brightly within him, makes him unsympathetic to their condition.



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12 SPORTS NEWS

Anguish mounts in Antigua

Sixth Test, third day

Windies out of reach as Lara twists the knife

Mike Selvey in St John's sees Caribbean fate conspire to set up cruel end for England

WHAT with the young pipsqueaks Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh tormenting English batsmen, and that skittish pup Angus Fraser reciprocating on behalf of England, this really has been a series for the kids. To that list of young thrusters can be added now a tubby, bald 36-year-old Guya-

Scoreboard

WINDIES	
First innings	
A J Atherton c Ramprakash	16
A J Lambart c Holder	9
A J Butcher c Lara b Ambrose	9
O M Headley c Lara b Ambrose	1
N Hume c Holder b Ramprakash	27
G P Thorpe (not out)	6
M W Ramprakash c Chamberlain	14
b Walsh	14
1st C Russell c Lambert b Ramprakash	0
A R Caddick c Wallace b Ramprakash	8
A R C Fraser b Walsh	9
P C R Tufnell not out	14
Extras (10, 10, 10)	30
Total (70.5 overs)	127
Fall of wickets: 27, 36, 57, 65, 105, 105, 117	
Bowling: Walsh 25.5-6-52-2; Ambrose 17-4-28-2; Ramprakash 17-4-30-1; Holder 1-1-0-0; Ross 9-4-14-1; Lambert 1-0-1-0	
WEST INDIES	
First innings	
C B Lambert c Thorpe b Ramprakash	104
P A Wallace b Headley	82
T B C Lara c Stewart b Caddick	89
S Chandrasekhar b Fraser	4
C L Hooper not out	54
R C Holder not out	27
Extras (10, 10, 10)	30
Total (for 4, 37 overs)	401
Fall of wickets: 167, 200, 317, 324	
To bat: J R Murray, P A Ross, C E L Ambrose, C A Walsh, O Ramprakash	
Umpires: S A Bucknor and C J Mitchell	

nese left-handed opener called Clayton Lambert who yesterday at the Recreation Ground became the oldest person to make a maiden Test century for West Indies since Len Baichan, another Guyanese, got to three figures against Pakistan 24 years ago.

Lambert's century and near-hundreds from his opening partner Philo Wallace and Brian Lara have ensured that this final Test of a competitive series is not just beyond the reach of England in terms of winning but almost certainly will be lost some time tomorrow, condemning Mike Atherton's side, a much better prepared, more experienced outfit than four years ago, and one playing substantially better cricket overall, to a similar 3-1 drubbing.

Having been hustled out for 127 on Saturday, their lowest score of a series in which runs have been at a premium, they saw any hopes of getting back in the game banished at once to the realms of fantasy as Wallace and Lambert lambasted the England bowling into abject submission, removing all but one of the deficit by the time stumps were drawn with only 27 overs bowled. Effectively the game had become a three-day handicap affair in which England offered West Indies two innings to their one.

The mayhem continued yesterday, with Wallace making 92, Lara 89 from 94 balls



Attack force... Philo Wallace, who made 92, hits out at the Recreation Ground yesterday during a 167-run opening stand with Clayton Lambert

PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE MASON

and Lambert, a much more restrained figure on Sunday, reaching 104 with 11 fours and a six before he was dismissed on the stroke of tea, edging Mark Ramprakash's off break to Graham Thorpe at slip. Shivnarine Chanderpaul became Angus Fraser's 27th wicket of the series shortly after the interval but Carl Hooper, on 54, remained to take his share of the good-ies with a run-a-ball half-century and, with 16 overs of the

third day remaining, he and Roland Holder, on 27, had taken the score on to 401 for four, a lead already of 275. Sometimes it is hard to credit the way that this series has lurched drunkenly from one extreme to the other. No side has had the upper hand in successive matches and only the sweeping rain in Bridgetown prevented a probable England win there. Only they know the deflationary effect that had.

The fates, they might have reasoned, just do not want them to succeed in the Caribbean. In this match the stuff has been knocked from them. The first-day pitch did not help. Quite why it started as wet as it did has not been adequately explained. Yet they survived when it was at its worst, only to tumble on the second day, by which time it had improved dramatically, put on the rack by Ambrose's magnificence as he ripped ball after ball past the bat and then mugged by Ramprakash's leg spin.

A total of 127 is no total to defend, but the England bowlers none the less bowled collectively as badly as they had done superbly in Bridgetown, with Andrew Caddick in particular a disheartened, humiliated figure.

The cause was not helped by the benevolent bestowal upon Lambert. It is a truism that the sides who do well hold their catches and teams

lacking the force do not: an obvious cause and effect. Five times in the course of almost five and a half hours Lambert was missed, the easiest of the chances to Atherton in the gully on Saturday when he had four, and yesterday to Alec Stewart at second slip.

Given the bedrock of an opening partnership of 167, Lara was to prove irresistible for two hours until his own impetuosity got the better of him. Wallace had batted for a further hour in the morning, getting to within eight of a maiden Test century when he

were cut ferociously or driven with withering power in the air or on the deck when they allowed him width. Tufnell and Ramprakash, the spinners, tried to tie him down but they too suffered and were blazed over the top. Once, when Fraser produced a perfectly respectable delivery, and on a good length, Lara's bat swung in a lazy arc and deposited the ball into the lower tier of the new Richie Richardson stand at mid-wicket. Fraser could only look askance.

Having given Lambert a 57-run start, Lara looked as if he would be first to three figures. Instead, after the pair had added 133 in 27 overs, his eyes lit up at the sight of Caddick's long hop but, in slapping to hit it for at least a dozen, he pulled it to mid-wicket where Stewart took a spectacular catch away to his right. Caddick, of course, always gets Lara out in Antigua. It just takes a while.

This series has lurched drunkenly from one extreme to the other

Dreams crash to earth like so many dropped catches

Matthew Engel despairs as the bowling melts and butter-fingers signal doom

WHEN Philo Wallace and Clayton Lambert were called into the West Indies team two weeks ago, it was laughingly said that the selectors had chosen Wallace and Groom. We had forgotten the other culturally significant use of the name Wallace — the dozing, mangy lion that had his ear poked by a little Northern lad (and his stick with the 'arse' 'end' 'audible') and suddenly remembered that he was meant to be fierce and ate him.

This weekend another Northern lad, Mike Atherton, has finally been eaten by Wallace and his pals, and chomped up. The series is now destined to end in a 3-1 defeat, exactly the margin of 1994. One senses, as was said during the final illness of George V, that a reign is drawing peacefully towards its close.

It is easier to prophesy Atherton's departure after this tour than to be constructive about the future. Hussain, the vice-captain, is believed to have gone out of favour as ethereally as he entered it. Ramprakash is perhaps a year away. Hilloake is getting no nearer at all. This suggests Stewart as a stop-gap.

But if he is captain, he surely can't keep wicket as well. Russell, on current form, could not keep chickens. If anyone has an alternative to these two, it is a well-guarded secret.

Oh, it's a mess. England are in despair only a week

after they looked near-certs to level the series. When it rained in Barbados, freakishly and cruelly, it drenched this team's spirit. The management, crucially, failed to dry them out in time.

England's performance in this Test can be explained rather than excused — the crushing disappointment of Barbados, the difficulty of batting in the stop-start circumstances of Friday and early Saturday on a pitch they distrusted (their headlong rushes to the pavilion

at every droplet of rain showed that this was a team which had lost its bottle), and the unspeakable catching... Lambert, by common consent, reached his 104 with five wickets down. Atherton, so often let down by his teammates, was the man most responsible, putting down a simple gully catch in the second over.

It is not easy for English professional cricketers, brought up in a system as rigid in its rituals and responses as Hasidic Judaism, to cope with a pair as unexpected and implausible as Lambert and Wallace. There have been slogging openers before now.

When the New South Wales batsman Lynn Marks died last year, his brother revealed that his method of getting the shine off the new ball was bouncing it off the road outside.

The most famous of all was an Englishman: the late, great, lovable Colin Milburn. Sanath Jayasuriya brought organised mayhem to the West Indies in Test cricket. He is a sober sides. It seems improbable that two such characters as these can ever have been selected together for a Test match and gone for a strategy of outright carnage.

And got away with it. Not so much Wallace and Groom as Bonnie and Clyde.

There is not a lot even top bowlers can do in this situation except take their punishment and wait for the mistake. But if, once the mistake comes, the fields drop the catch time and time and time again, all anyone could do is wave the white flag. England, it is now clear, surrendered even before the match began.



On the grass... Alec Stewart prepares to arise after dropping Lambert in slips

PHOTOGRAPH: REBECCA NADEN

one else makes an instant coffee that doesn't

flavour for flavour.

NESCAFÉ BLEND 37

A LOT OF CHARACTER

The Guardian

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ALL COURSES COME

The Guardian

Racing

Guineas scare for Embassy

Chris Hawkins

EMBASSY, winter favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, was given a scare in Dubai over the weekend when she was taken to the equine hospital after causing concern on Saturday morning.

Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, explained: "She came in from exercise on Saturday and was not her usual self. As a precaution she was sent to the equine hospital after causing concern on Saturday morning."

"She was given a clean bill of health and came back to Al Quoz stables and was ridden out on Sunday morning. There is no question of her having a twisted gut and being operated on as I believe rumours in England suggested."

But both Hili's and Ladbrokes have pushed Embassy out to 8-1 in their betting on the first fillies' classic, making Cape Verdi their new favourite at 6-1.

Embassy, trained by David Loder as a two-year-old but returning under the Godolphin banner with Saeed bin Suroor this season, beat Cape Verdi into fourth place in the Cheveley Park Stakes last autumn, averaging a short-head defeat by the winner in the Lowther Stakes at York.

Ladbrokes have the Henry Cecil filly Jibe third best at 10-1. Jibe, a sister to Yashmak and half-sister to Commander in Chief, was second to Gloriosa in the Ascot Filly Stakes in September and has apparently been working very well recently.

In Dubai, Predappio has emerged as Godolphin's main hope in the 4th World Cup on Saturday. Predappio has been handling the sand surface at the Nad Al Sheba track better than Swain and as a result Frankie Dettori has chosen him in preference to the King George winner, Michael Kinane will ride Swain.

Silver Charm, winner of the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, is 5-4 favourite with

Ladbrokes, who have Predappio at 5-1 and the Andre Fabre-trained Loup Sauvage, runner-up in the Newmarket Champion Stakes, at 6-1.

Walter Swinburn, who made his reappearance at Lingfield on Saturday, had hoped to ride Oscar, but the Irish colt has been found to have heat in a tendon and will not be ridden by Kevin Frendersgarth.

Britain's hopes rest with Luso, the mount of Pat Bedy, although at 25-1 his prospects seem remote — he finished a long way behind Singapiel last year.

Swinburn's comeback, after almost a year off with weight, diet and alcohol problems, prompted a big crowd to turn out at Lingfield, where the Teletext All-Weather Derby was run for the first time.

The 36-year-old jockey has been through the mill in the last two years, surviving a life-threatening fall in Hong Kong in 1996, but looked in good health, although still a few pounds off his target weight of 8st 7lb.

Swinburn recently rode a winner in Dubai, but there was no fairytale start for him here and his mount Drive Asured finished 11th of the 14 runners.

Just being back in the saddle was the main thing for Swinburn, however, and he commented: "To be honest, I was shocked how much I missed it. To give up riding hurt more than I imagined and missing Entrepreneur's Guineas win was particularly hard."

Running Stag, ridden by Ray Cochrane, took the £25,000 first prize in impressive style and at last looks like justifying trainer Philip Mitchell's high opinion of the colt, whom he somewhat optimistically entered for last year's Kentucky Derby.

This was only his second career victory, but Mitchell believes the son of Cozzene, winner of the 1986 Breeders' Cup Mile, has now matured and is in for a successful season, although he will be campaigned mainly abroad.



Ray of sunshine... Ray Cochrane has Running Stag well clear in the All-Weather Derby at Lingfield

JULIAN HERBERT

'Stopping' claims to be investigated

FOLLOWING a Sunday newspaper story in which it was claimed that the former British jockey now riding in Austria, is to be interviewed by the Jockey Club, writes Chris Hawkins.

Giles rode 40 winners in a seven-year career in this country and is quoted as saying: "If I was told to stop a horse I did it. People told me to shut up and listen. Do as you are told, they said, if you don't it's your last ride for me."

John Maxse, head of Jockey Club public relations, commented: "Giles has not ridden here since 1991 and is not licensed in this country so our powers are limited, but he claims he was told to stop horses

by people who are still in contact and we will be asking him about that."

"We are aware that apprentices and up-and-coming riders have to please their employers and can be put in a difficult position."

"So in the changes to Rule 151 which came into effect last month, we have made it clear that a jockey is assumed to have ridden to order unless a trainer can prove otherwise rather than the other way round as before."

Racing seems to be dogged by trouble at the moment, but at Vintoxeter on Saturday the Marton Pedigree Midlands National was run without controversy as the Irish challenger Miss Orchestra came home a comfortable seven lengths winner from Kam-

kaze and Another Excuse. Miss Orchestra was a first time winner for 18-year-old Barry Geraghty, who made full use of his mare's stamina over this four and a quarter miles.

"She's not in the Martell National, but we'll run her in the Irish Grand National now," said Jessica Harrington, the trainer.

Kamikaze, who threw away a winning opportunity here last month, was travelling well until a mistake at the fourth last and will try to make amends in the Scottish National provided there is some give in the ground according to Kim Bailey.

The Irish, carrying on where they left off at Cheltenham, had another winner at the meeting as Jock-

ing Aside and Charlie Swan took the final event, the Weatherby Turf News Novice Hurdle, giving trainer Gerry Hourigan success on his first visit to Britain.

Tony McCoy moved inexorably nearer the jump jockeys' record and after an all-the-way win on Nigella's Lead needs only three more victories to beat Peter Scudamore's score of 221.

The praises of McCoy have been sung long and loud, but performances of his in the last week which will stick in the memory were his short-head triumph on Champagne, whom he unbelievably kept going just long enough to hold on in the Arkle, and his perseverance on Blowing Wind in the County Hurdle.

Cross-country

O'Sullivan makes it a double

Duncan Mackay in Marrakech sees the Irishwoman gain two world titles

SONIA O'SULLIVAN pulled off a remarkable double when she won the inaugural 4km race at the World Cross-country Championships here yesterday less than 24 hours after beating Britain's Paula Radcliffe to take the 8km title.

The Irishwoman disappointed 20,000 Moroccan fans by beating the local favourite Zohra Ouaziz into second place as she continued her recovery after two bad years. The former world 5,000m champion arrived here written off by many but will fly home having reclaimed her position as the best female distance runner.

The manner of O'Sullivan's victory yesterday was even more impressive than Saturday, when she had beaten Radcliffe only in the last 500m. With no Radcliffe to challenge her, it was clear O'Sullivan was going to win the shorter event before half way as she made up a five-metre gap on Ouaziz and Ethiopia's Kutre Dulecha and pulled away for a 14sec victory in 12min 38sec.

O'Sullivan's most dangerous opponent of the weekend was the overzealous street salesman who had tried to sell her a bracelet on the way back to her hotel on Saturday evening and forced her to walk into a bollard, cutting her shin. Even then she came out on top as the tradesman gave her the trinket.

She could have afforded it. With £40,000 (£24,000) going to the winner of each race, O'Sullivan's weekend earnings were \$80,000. "I came here to win the world cross-country title but for the first time they have split the races and introduced a shorter event," she said. "I was greedy and didn't want to share the title with anyone."

"The longer race was always going to be the tougher but after I finished on Saturday I decided deep down that running again could only be a bonus."

It will be of no consolation to Radcliffe that the seeds of O'Sullivan's comeback were sown in London by two Britons. The rediscovery of her best form has coincided with her once again seeking coach-

ing advice from Alan Storey and Kim McDonald. The partnership broke up two years after she suffered a disastrous few days in Atlanta when her Olympic chances were ruined by a stomach upset.

"We started talking again in December," said McDonald, who doubles as her agent. "It takes a big person to realise that what you are doing is not right, and Sonia admitted she needed to get back to what she was doing. She now allows Alan to coach her and that has been important. Atlanta was a defining moment in her life. She came away sick and mentally shattered."

O'Sullivan spent much of the winter training at altitude in the Assefa Mountains, but when based at home in London, she often trains with the top Kenyans. So she will have drawn pleasure from watching them again dominate the men's 12km race as they won the team title for a 13th consecutive year.

Paul Tergat was once more their leader as he claimed his fourth title in a row, his teammates filling six of the first seven places. Only Ethiopia's Assefa Mamozeb, in third, prevented a clean sweep. The first Briton, in 38th place, was Coventry's Glyn Tomrans as the team finished 10th.

The highest bonus of the weekend lay in the bronze medals for the women's team on Saturday. Inspired by Radcliffe, Hayley Haining, Vikki McPherson and Liz Talbot ran off of their skills in the ahead of more fancied squads.



O'Sullivan... two wins and twice £24,000

Newcastle Jackpot card with guide to the form

TONY PALEY	TOP FURMS
2.00 Public Beach	Barclay
2.30 Water Foot	Walter
3.00 Secret Day (imp)	Houseman
3.30 Alford	Alford
4.00 Julie Day	Julie Day
4.30 Julie Day	Julie Day
5.00 Julie Day	Julie Day
5.30 Julie Day	Julie Day

Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

Unbeaten first timer: 2.30 Furry Yo Krow, 3.30 Richard, Vaseau, Nemo. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. H.Flat.

2.00 NORTHERN RACING CHASE

3m £2,892 (6 declared)	
101 2.00 Public Beach (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
102 2.30 Water Foot (2) M W 10-11-10	A. Line
103 3.00 Secret Day (imp) (2) M W 10-11-10	C. Lister
104 3.30 Alford (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
105 4.00 Julie Day (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
106 4.30 Julie Day (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
107 5.00 Julie Day (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
108 5.30 Julie Day (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun

Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

Unbeaten first timer: 2.30 Furry Yo Krow, 3.30 Richard, Vaseau, Nemo. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. H.Flat.

2.30 WILLIAMS CATERING COMPANY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

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Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

Unbeaten first timer: 2.30 Furry Yo Krow, 3.30 Richard, Vaseau, Nemo. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. H.Flat.

3.00 NORTHERN HURDLES HURDLE

<p> <i>Wentworth</i> <i>Chalcedon</i> and <i>lost touch</i> <i>Henry</i>, <i>white chocolate</i> <i>Sam</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> <i>14</i>, <i>lost</i> 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Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

Unbeaten first timer: 2.30 Furry Yo Krow, 3.30 Richard, Vaseau, Nemo. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. H.Flat.

3.30 M J DONALDSON NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE

2m £1,896 (14 declared)	
53434 Alpine Highway (21) M W Exempt 5-11-13	B. Garity

Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

Unbeaten first timer: 2.30 Furry Yo Krow, 3.30 Richard, Vaseau, Nemo. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. H.Flat.

KEEPING TRACK 0891 222 +

COMMENTARY RESULTS

NEWCASTLE 771 781

SOUTHWELL 772 782

ALL COURSES COMMENTARY 0891 222 780

ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 222 780

CALLS COST 50P PER MIN AT ALL TIMES. 770 PUL, ANGLIAN HOUSE, LONDON EC2A 4PL.

The Guardian INTERACTIVE

4.00 GREAT NORTH ROAD HANDICAP CHASE

500	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
501	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
502	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
503	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
504	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
505	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
506	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
507	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
508	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
509	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
510	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
511	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
512	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
513	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
514	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
515	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
516	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
517	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
518	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
519	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
520	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
521	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
522	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
523	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
524	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
525	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
526	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
527	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
528	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
529	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
530	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
531	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
532	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
533	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
534	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
535	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
536	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
537	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
538	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
539	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
540	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
541	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
542	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
543	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
544	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
545	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
546	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
547	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
548	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
549	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
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551	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
552	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
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554	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
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556	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
557	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
558	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
559	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
560	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
561	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
562	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
563	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
564	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
565	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
566	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
567	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
568	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
569	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
570	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
571	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
572	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
573	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
574	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
575	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
576	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
577	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
578	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
579	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
580	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
581	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
582	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
583	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
584	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
585	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
586	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
587	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
588	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
589	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
590	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
591	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
592	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
593	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
594	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
595	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
596	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
597	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
598	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
599	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
600	Alford (2) (2) M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun

Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

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4.35 TOWN & COUNTRY NOVICE HUNTER CHASE

<p> 4.00 GREAT NORTH ROAD HANDICAP CHASE 3m £2,614 (3 declared) </p> <p> 4-123 John Bar Billy 22 Mrs J Brown 10-11-10 </p> <p> E Colquhoun 0-20 </p>	
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Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

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5.05 ST MOWEN INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

225-12	Seaside swim (2) C. Smith 9-12-7	Mr. J. Barry	—
R-PP-50	Private Jet (2) A. Taylor 9-12-7	Mr. J. Barry	—
1-1-P	Sea King (2) M. C. Galeski 7-12-7	Mr. J. Barry	—
11P-2	Landon Sea King (2) K. Roberts 9-12-7	Mr. D. Morgan	—
31U-16	Private Jet (2) A. Brown 9-12-7	Mr. D. Morgan	—
U42-33	Royal Seaside (12) A. Dickson 9-12-7	Mr. A. Parker	—
PP-50	Royal Palm (12) V. Thompson 9-12-7	Mr. M. Thompson	—
APPS-4	Winter (Royal) (2) F. Jock 1-12-12	Mr. J. Barry	—

Swims: 6-6 Cuddy Abney, 1-1 Rumble Glaz, 5-1 Hadden Glaz, 6-1 Landon Palm, 12-1 Jean A King, 12-1 Abbey Lark.

Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

Unbeaten first timer: 2.30 Furry Yo Krow, 3.30 Richard, Vaseau, Nemo. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. H.Flat.

5.35 ST MOWEN INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

20	Edinburgh (122) J J O'Neill 5-11-4	
80	Galaxy (50) Max S Drenth 5-11-4	Mr O'Brien (7)
90	Perks of Time (20) J J O'Neill 6-11-4	J Jurdett (7)
	Pin Clever G Richards 5-11-4	B Harding
20	Royal Cornetto (222) M Henson 5-11-4	Mr C Henson (8)
3	Woe Dances (22) J J O'Neill 6-11-4	B Richards (8)
4	Woodfield State (20) Alan M Penkley 5-11-4	S Lee
	Henry Splice J Oliver 6-10-13	Miss S Fowler
	Laurieville S Bessfield 6-10-13	M Dawson
	A Little Bit 6-10-13	Mr L Evans (8)

Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

Unbeaten first timer: 2.30 Furry Yo Krow, 3.30 Richard, Vaseau, Nemo. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. H.Flat.

5.35 ST MOWEN INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

PURSE SPECIALISTS									
Days	Yst	Purse	%	Level St	Trainers	Yst	Purse	%	Level St
Mon	41	133	36.8	-57.28	Mrs M. Raveley	41	169	24.3	+125.36
Tues	16	116	13.9	-32.72	at Richards	14	67	20.9	-6.87
Wed	25	87	17.2	-8.03	J.B. Johnson	12	114	10.5	-71.87
Thurs	14	130	10.8	-61.79	at Woodward	9	107	8.86	-45.35
Fri	7				at Woodward	7	51	11.5	-20.03

Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

Unbeaten first timer: 2.30 Furry Yo Krow, 3.30 Richard, Vaseau, Nemo. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. H.Flat.

5.35 ST MOWEN INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

1001	5.35	Public Beach (2)	M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
1002	5.35	Alford (2)	M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
1003	6.00	Julie Day (2)	M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
1004	6.30	Julie Day (2)	M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
1005	7.00	Julie Day (2)	M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun
1006	7.30	Julie Day (2)	M W 10-11-10	J. Colquhoun

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Southwell (A.W.)

TONY PALEY	TOP FURMS
2.15 Public Beach	Barclay
2.45 Water Foot	Walter
3.15 Secret Day (imp)	Houseman
3.45 Alford	Alford
4.15 Julie Day	Julie Day
4.45 Julie Day	Julie Day
5.15 Julie Day	Julie Day
5.45 Julie Day	Julie Day

Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

Unbeaten first timer: 2.30 Furry Yo Krow, 3.30 Richard, Vaseau, Nemo. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. H.Flat.

2.15 TRON AFFRANCE FILLES' HANDICAP

2302-2	Lucy's Princess (24) A Carter 5-10-0	C Carter	95
5-1740	Deanna's Beauty (14) (22) H Sedgemo 5-9-5	C Cogges	95
0-6500	Bliss Princess (25) at W Latority 4-9-6	W Latority	95
3000-0	Bellars (14) (23) J Berry 4-5-5	J Berry	95
450-0	John's Missions (10) K Parke 4-9-4	K Parke	95
002718	Falls (14) (22) H Richmond 4-9-1	H Richmond	95
0-6466	Swind Lady (27) J R Proctor 5-8-4	J R Proctor	95
0-6466	Acrowns Lady (27) J R Proctor 5-8-4	J R Proctor	95
0-6430	Down The Tye (126) (23) M Chapman 5-5-2	M Chapman	95

Left-handed clock of 120m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this a good test of stamina. Good, Good & Firm in Place. 4f Donates blinks. Long distance travellers: Barclay (2.00), Miss Lucia V Russell, Teydile, 132 miles. Seven day winners: Nemo.

Unbeaten first timer: 2.30 Furry Yo Krow, 3.30 Richard, Vaseau, Nemo. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. H.Flat.

2.45 CARROUSTE CLAIMING STAKES

12-1 Kingsley Bay, 7-2 Bold Arctical, 5-1 Alarm, Mike's Double, 5-1 Silk Cottage, 12-1 Rock Island Line, 1/4m, 20-1 Sweetie Maid.	
15	MURFIELD MAIDEN STAKES 3YO Tm £3,436 (9 declared)
06	Burns Hill (181) J Amiel 9-0
01	Charmant (164) J Amiel 9-0
04	Charmant (164) J Amiel 9-0
03	Charmant (164) J Amiel 9-0
02	Charmant (164) J Amiel 9-0
05	Charmant (164) J Amiel 9-0
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100	Charmant (164) J Amiel 9-0

First Division
Middlesbrough 3 Norwich City 0

Beck gloss obscures Boro cracks

George Caulkin

THE need for the mercurial qualities of a reformed thirty-something hell-raiser at Middlesbrough will finally be sated on Thursday, but it will be Paul Merson, returning from international duty with England rather than the possible signing of Paul Gascoigne, on whom Bryan Robson's hopes for automatic promotion will surely rest.

Without Merson, Middlesbrough are little better than pedestrian. A three-goal victory this may have been, yet it was one stoutly buttressed by the mediocrity of the opposition and one that appeared unlikely for dispiriting stretches.

For a 20-minute spell midway through the first half, during which Neil Maddison cushioned a long punt by Gianluca Festa and volleyed his fourth goal in six games, Robson's side briefly looked like genuine candidates for the Premiership. It was a fleeting mirage. "On this performance, I would have to say that Sunderland and Forest are more likely to go up," remarked the Norwich manager Mike Walker, although he also admitted, "I know Boro are better than that."

They leapt, however, into second place, which at least maintains the intriguing rivalry between the two sides at the head of the First Division. At this stage of the season, points are more important than the manner in which they occurred.

Victory was made certain only in the 71st minute, when the muscular Maddison centred from deep on the right and Alan Armstrong flung out a boot to divert the ball beyond Andy Marshall. An extra coat of gloss was added by the substitute Michael Beck, who applied the final touch to a move he knew little about, converting Maddison's low shot after an extended goalmouth scramble.

"People will probably say this was a walkover, but I don't think it was," said Walker. For that, Middlesbrough could only blame themselves. Norwich had packed the midfield but struggled to make any use of the ball, only coming close to scoring when Iwan Roberts headed directly at Markon Beresford from a Neil Adams cross.

There was a lively debut for Middlesbrough's latest acquisition, the £2-million Colombian international striker, Hamilton Ricard, although the space he routinely created was negated by the inadequacy of his finishing. He and Armstrong both had penalty appeals waved away by Fraser Stretton and Craig Hignett drew a point-blank save from Marshall.

So what of Gascoigne? "There's still no news," said Robson. "We're waiting for Paul and his agent to get back to us." Of more import will be whether Merson returns from Switzerland in one piece.



Maddison avenue ... Neil Maddison volleys Middlesbrough ahead against Norwich City at the Riverside yesterday

Hoddle loses five more

David Lacey

GLENN HODDLE lost five more players from his England squad last night as Wednesday's friendly against Switzerland in Bern began to look like a diplomatic exercise rather than a World Cup warm-up.

The latest casualties are Tony Adams, David Beckham, Nicky Butt, Ray Parlour and Graeme Le Saux. Andy Cole, Paul Scholes and the Neville brothers, Gary and Philip, dropped out on Thursday. David Seaman, Gary Pallister and Ian Wright were already unavailable and Paul Gascoigne omitted because of a lack of match practice.

Adams is the unexpected injury; the others were always doubtful. The Arsenal defender twinned an ankle over the weekend and though he was able to train yesterday Hoddle did not feel it worth the risk of taking him to Switzerland.

All but two of the nine withdrawals involve Manchester United players. Originally Hoddle had seven of Alex Ferguson's team in his squad of 26, now only Teddy Sheringham survives and he has not been training because of a knee and ankle problem.

Ferguson's injury crisis, which contributed to Manchester United's elimination from the Champions League by Monaco last Wednesday, was always going to affect Hoddle's immediate plans.

Hoddle will decide today if he wants to call more players into the party, which will fly out to Switzerland at lunchtime, or whether he will merely promote some of the Under-21 team, who play in Aarau tomorrow night. Trevor Sinclair, Nick Barmby and Jamie Redknapp are among the over-age players in the squad.

Stoke City 2 Queens Park Rangers 1

Jorg the best

Andy Wilson

WHEN a manager ends his post-match conference by asking how Manchester City have done, you know his club must be in trouble. Three points would have taken Queens Park Rangers nine clear of rock-bottom Stoke. Instead, Ray Harford knows they are now up against it. Their only win in nine games was that freakish 5-0 drubbing of Middlesbrough, their last win only twice since Christmas.

Poor Ian Dowie, the notoriously unpropitious one scored the first on Saturday, but at the wrong end, stretching to steer a dangerous free-kick past Lee Harper. Suddenly the Porters, hitherto paralysed by tension, relaxed to attack with purpose, the right-winger Dean Crowe dragging one golden chance across goal before scoring six minutes after the break with a clever run and dummy, and firm finish.

He was found, as Dowie had earlier been exposed, by the incisive mind and probing left boot of Jorg Schiebeck, a 23-year-old German left-back signed on loan from NEC Nijmegen last week. "I've got a few contacts in Holland, and they told me that Jorg was coming out of contract and

worth a look," explained a relieved Chris Kamara. This was his first win since taking over at Stoke 12 games ago, a run which still suggests that Geoffrey Richmond, rather than David Mellor, knew what he was talking about when Kamara was sacked by Bradford.

Looking more than ever like the bloke from the Real Thing whose dog won Crufts, Kamara took the chance to slam the Evening Sentinel, which had demanded his head along with those of the chairman and chief executive, after last Saturday's 5-1 defeat at Oxford. "I don't mind constructive criticism, but they have ridiculed me this week and I have felt the pressure," he said. "We've needed the Oxford debacle. We saw several players chucking the towel in as if they had been relegated. Now it's in our own hands. I said if we won this game, we'd get out, no danger."

Stoke's faithful 11,000, rather than the club's cavernous new home, were given a breathless few minutes of injury time to endure as Justin Whittle, previously impressively composed, brought down the revived former Porters' Mike Sheron. Whittle was sent off, and Simon Barker converted the penalty, but it was not enough.

Birmingham City 1 Nottingham Forest 2

Double Dutch and a yo-yo leave Forest fans' fingernails frayed

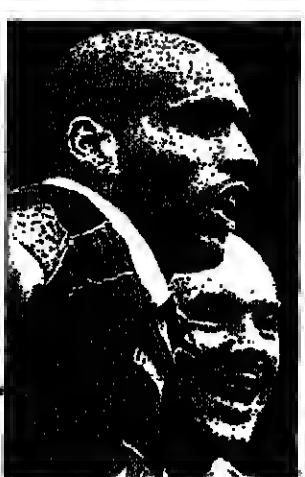
Martin Thorpe

ONE 90-minute game became a microcosm of the last three seasons for Nottingham Forest up, down and again. Dominant in the first half, pinned back in the second before two stunning late goals from Pierre Van Hooijdonk secured three points for the First Division leaders.

Supporting Forest must be hell on the fingernails: promoted under Frank Clark, relegated under Stuart Pearce and now two points clear at the top and about to rise again under the world's leading authority on promotion to the Premiership, Dave Bassett.

Perhaps Forest really were too good to go down last season, for the nucleus of the same team look a class above most of the First Division. But the question is whether Forest's latest high will turn out to be just a sugar rush.

Last season's takeover brought hope and funds to buy players such as Van Hooijdonk, the midfielder who scored two goals in the last three seasons.



Van Hooijdonk ... two goals

ace, Bolton and Barnsley have shown that what goes up can easily come down, even after forking out millions. The worry for supporters concerned about further erosion of their fingernails is that, if Forest are promoted, they may not have large sums to spend.

"The new backers have pumped about £16 million in but £11 million was debt," says the team's former England winger Steve Stone. "There's been talk that, even if we do go up, there won't be money for players. We are looking for players now and they've said they've got no money."

Forest fans, though, are living for the moment. Forgotten are the dark days of last season when they trudged to games sensing inevitable defeat. Now they go confident of victory for a side still wedded to the past but with a rediscovered cutting edge.

Mind you, that belief was spread to the full on Saturday as a spirited Birmingham

side, harbouring hopes of a play-off berth, led 1-0 with six minutes to go having regularly sliced open Forest's defence, extracted three flying saves from Dave Beasant and hit the bar through Peter Ndlovu's exquisite volley.

Though City's goal came from a dubious penalty, it was deserved. But they failed to capitalise and a higher class eventually told. Martin O'Connor got caught in possession, Van Hooijdonk was released on goal, the defender Michael Johnson hacked him down and was sent off and the £3 million Dutch international curled the free-kick beautifully past the wall from outside the area.

Two minutes from time the arrogantly effective Van Hooijdonk repeated the dose, picking up the ball about 20 yards out and stroking another unstoppable header into the right-hand corner. City were stunned, Forest jubilant, the visiting supporters down to their first knuckle.

Reading 0 Huddersfield Town 2

Madejski at Wicks' end as Pardew starts with a crash

Russell Thomas

ALAN PARDEW, standing throughout the game with pen and note pad in hand, certainly looks like a manager. Cravie hair at the age of 30, he looks like a young man, but his complete curriculum vitae, but managerial life can be short and the caretaker knows it.

The former Crystal Palace midfielder, appointed as "the best man to lead us through the weekend", hopes to know today whether he will be Reading's man until at least the end of the season. Uncertainty about his paymasters' thoughts filtered through his first post-match conference. But there is little doubt about the division's bottom team: Reading look sure to go down.

While the Madejski Stadium rises magnificently near the M4, the prospective patrons of Reading's theatre of dreams were living out the recurring nightmare of failure at the club's home of 106 years. Elm Park loyalists left on Saturday with an air of weary resignation, sure that they would be re-routing to one of the Second Division's most splendid settings next season.

Pardew said he had not seen John Madejski on Saturday. The chairman had been in the Far East last week, keeping in touch by telephone over the departure of Terry Bulivant. There were no audible chants of "Sack the board" as their hapless team subsided against a belatedly confident Huddersfield.

It is understood that Madejski has talked to Steve Wicks, the former Scarborough and Lincoln manager, about the vacancy. Wicks is currently coaching the Malaysian club Senegal but reportedly wants to return home.

Pardew pressed his claims forthrightly, yet cleverly. "I felt the players were with me," he said. "I'm not downhearted at all." He felt and, however, for the supporters. "After the venom with Terry, I'd like to thank the fans for their response and apologise to them that we couldn't give them the goods today."

The pressure on Pardew, if appointed, is to rescue Reading in only seven games. The statistics are ominous: one goal scored in the last six matches, 18 conceded. Stuart Lovell's astonishing first-half miss from five yards demonstrated the first defect, Marcus Stewart's two late goals the latter. Huddersfield's highly confident 17-goal scorers will seldom strike so easily.

Reading had an excuse for the first goal. Nicky Hammond played at the risk of breaking his left hand after three other goalkeepers had been ruled out by injury. A pre-match injection could not numb the pain of half-stopping and then flailing at Stewart's shot as it trickled away from the troubled hand. Hammond and his team-mates lacked nothing in passion. But what Pardew needs, all the same, is several new players.

Second Division

WATFORD's march back to the First Division started again at Oldham, where an injury-time equaliser from the substitute Mark Allott prevented them from going six points clear.

Darren Bazeley's effort put the visitors in front but Adrian Littlejohn equalised just before half-time. Nigel Gibbs then appeared to have ensured victory for the visitors before Allott's last-gasp intervention.

Watford nevertheless moved four points ahead of their closest pursuers, Bristol City, who stumbled 2-0 at Plymouth. Second-half strikes by Mark Saunders and Barry Conlon helped Argyle move out of the relegation zone.

Wrexham are third after beating Wycombe 2-0 at the Racecourse Ground. Jason Kavanagh gave the hosts a push-start when he put through his own net and David Brammer sealed the points in stoppage time.

Grimsby slipped back to fourth after a 2-3 draw at Luton, who are next to bottom. Home goals from Tony Gallimore and Kevin Donovan were matched by Sean Evers and Steve Davis.

Sonthend moved above Luton after a lively tussle at home to Bournemouth. Mark Stein put the visitors ahead before Jeron Boers and Andy Thomson both scored twice to secure a 5-3 win. Burnley's deficit at the bottom extended to six points after Kim Grant gave Millwall a 1-0 win at the New Den.

Third Division

NOTTS COUNTY had a chance to clinch promotion to the Second Division at the first attempt. They faced Colchester at Meadow Lane. With results going their way elsewhere, victory would have made Sam Allardice's side certain to return to the Second Division at the first attempt.

Michael Brown put Shrewsbury ahead before goals by Leroy Chambers and Steve Wood lifted Macclesfield into third place and preserved their proud record as the only League team still unbeaten at home.

Nothing changes at the relegation end of the table, where the bottom three all lost. Doncaster remain 12 points adrift after going down 4-2 to Lincoln at home, with Brighton next to bottom after Cambridge's comfortable 2-0 win at Gillingham. Priestfield Stadium, Hull City, third from bottom, suffered yet another defeat at Boothferry Park, where Chris Roberts scored the only goal of the game for Cardiff.

Swansea opened daylight over these three with a goalless draw over Scarborough, who slipped to fifth, while Peterborough revived with a 2-1 home win over Chester and Leyton Orient kept their promotion hopes alive with a 2-0 defeat of Darlington at Brisbane Road.

Charlton steeled for final run-in

CHARLTON's manager, Alex Curbishley, called for "more steel away from home" and was answered by 3-0 win at Rovers all three points.

Tranmere's manager John Aldridge singled out Jones's efforts after the player scored from a distance to attack for the second half. "The lad has played everywhere for me this year. He knows where he likes to play — up front. But he does well anywhere."

Tony Ellis struck midway through the second half to give Tranmere a vital 1-0 home win against Oxford and Martin Foyle scored an injury-time equaliser for Port Vale in a 2-2 draw at West Bromwich. Colin Woodthorpe scored an injury-time point for Stockport in a 1-1 draw at Swindon.

Tranmere staged a stunning fightback to beat Bradford 2-1. Eddie Vouds headed Bradford in front in the

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	Chamonix	100	Chamonix	100
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In the 5-page sports section



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Another victory
in Nottingham
promotion chase
page 15



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Racing, athletics 13
Cricket 12

The Guardian Sport

Monday March 23 1998 www.guardian.co.uk

Scots undone by second-half surge at Murrayfield

Calcutta Cup: Scotland 20 England 34

England switch on the power

Robert Armstrong
sees Paul Grayson
set an England
record of 19 points
in Edinburgh

ENGLAND moved a step closer to the Five Nations consolation prize of a triple crown with a highly erratic performance that nevertheless produced four excellent tries and several exciting individual cameos in their Calcutta Cup clash at Murrayfield yesterday. Their fly-half Paul Grayson established a new scoring record for an Englishman playing in Edinburgh: his total of 19 points included a brilliant solo try, four conversions and two penalty goals.

It took England a good hour to send the under-powered Scots into full retreat but the fire power their backs eventually unleashed was worth waiting for.

Three splendidly worked tries in a sparkling 13-minute

period by Matt Dawson, Austin Healey and Grayson left Scotland's previously dogged defence in complete disarray and underlined the gulf in quality between the sides. Scotland did manage to save their blushes with a couple of counter-attacking tries by their wings near the end that possibly reflected England's developing complacency. However, Gary Armstrong's players are bound to reflect on a disappointing series of near-misses in the first half when their enterprising backs might well have breached the England line on a couple of occasions and built up a substantial lead.

The interval score of 6-6 represented a moral triumph for England that they subsequently turned into the real thing.

Apart from the influential Grayson, whom Clive Woodward singled out for praise,

Dawson firmly established his renewed claim to be regarded as England's first-choice scrum-half. The Northampton man deservedly won a handsome Man of the Match trophy after servicing his forwards shrewdly, putting in plenty of hard work in defence and shifting his back division into top gear in a more up-beat second half.

Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, put the win into its proper perspective, acknowledging that his side were pleased to have won at Murrayfield without producing the controlled fluent football they would have preferred. "People may say our penalty try after the break was the turning point," he said. "We have a lot of power in our scrum and we'd have been foolish not to have used it. In the first half we fell between two stools, trying to move the ball wide before we'd done the hard work up front."

Scotland were left to regret their failure to turn early pressure into points largely because of a persistent lack of precision inside the England 22. When the Scots were awarded a penalty in front of the posts Craig Chalmers steered his kick from the edge of the box wide of the left upright. Shortly afterwards the hosts, awarded a scrum in a good attacking position, ought to have scored but tackled by Dawson on Armstrong and Matt Perry on Derrick Lee denied the Scots a few metres from the line.

Meanwhile, Grayson had got England off the mark with a confident 35-metre penalty goal after Rob Wainwright was penalised for failing to release. A late tackle by Martin Johnson yielded a penalty that the Scotland fly-half guided home carefully from 30 metres. However, England then capitalised on a lapse of concentration in the Scottish defence, setting up a ruck in front of the posts from which Grayson dropped a crisp goal.

In the 10 minutes before half-time Scotland again put England under heavy pressure with a number of dangerous breaks by the hard-working Armstrong, who was well supported by his centres Alan Tait and Gregor Townsend. Once again the Scots were frustrated by England's cover defence with Healey and Will Greenwood putting in a number of important tackles just inside their 22.

The suspicion that Scotland would pay heavily for their inability to profit from half-chances was borne out soon after the break when England laid siege to the Scottish line



Solo flight ... Paul Grayson dives over to score six minutes from the end after a superb break that carried him past four defenders

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID CANNON

with a series of scrums that the host side could just manage to hold. In the 49th minute though England turned the screw tighter with an attacking scrum in the left corner that the Scottish pack deliberately collapsed on their own line. The referee Clayton Thomas promptly awarded a penalty try.

Just before the hour Scotland carved out a splendid opportunity to reduce the 13-6

deficit when England were driven deep into their 22 but the ebullient flanker Adam Roxburgh knocked on and the chance was lost. After 62 minutes England tightened their grip with the most clinical score of the afternoon from a slick move that involved Dean Ryan, Grayson and Greenwood. The honours went to Dawson who provided a vital linking pass and a second later was on hand to thunder over

between the posts. With 13 minutes left England made victory certain with a try that originated from an uncharacteristic midfield error by Tait. The alert Jeremy Goscott hooked the ball on towards the right corner and Healey completed a clever soccer-style dribble with a pick-up that carried him between two defenders for a merited try.

Six minutes from the end Grayson produced England's

piece de resistance, a superb solo break that carried him past four defenders for a touch-down to the right of the posts.

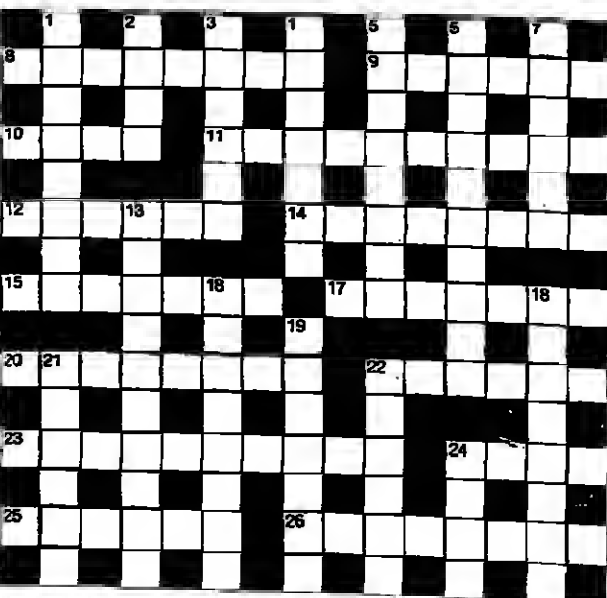
England relaxed a little and Scotland were allowed to give the scoreline a respectable gloss with two tries in the closing stages. Roxburgh carved out both opportunities with his aggressive ability to shake off midfield tackles.

When Phil de Glanville failed to put the flanker down Tony Stanger was the beneficiary, racing away on the right

to leave the cover defence for dead. It was Roxburgh's scorching pass that also sent Shaun Longstaff clear for his first international try in injury time. By that stage, however, Scotland were simply engaging in damage limitation.

Guardian Crossword No 21,229

Set by Rufus



Across

- 8 Caused alarm to go off in the van (6)
- 9 It enables a writer to get rid of unwanted characters (6)
- 10 Cut price bargain (4)
- 11 Generous daily help, albeit disorganised (10)
- 12 I am in pursuit in a carriage (6)
- 14 Animals involved in the chase (6)
- 15 Canute's first little wave, one that halts (7)
- 17 Arrow outside the Spanish workshop (7)
- 20 Honoured by the electorate, dishonoured by the bank (6)
- 22 Ice-cold (6)
- 23 I agree coat is incorporated in order (10)
- 24 No honours in this amorous advance (4)

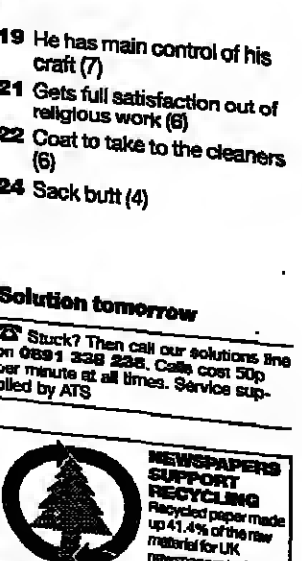
Down

- 1 Wrack on a chart firmly fixed (2,6)
- 2 Support used by an actor (4)
- 3 Gardening accessory that's old hat (6)
- 4 Increase a loan (7)
- 5 Maybe his place is rented out (6)
- 6 Dance of triplets in later natal development (10)
- 7 Good, when the glass is going up (6)
- 13 Rashness and cheek? That's about right (10)
- 16 Capital fellow, extremely single-minded (8)
- 18 Disclosure made by a photographer (8)



WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,222
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are C. M. H. of Wirral, Merseyside; Mr A. Truman of Nottingham; J. E. and S. M. Morley of Penryn, Cornwall; and J. E. Fisher of Ridge, Herts. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Solution tomorrow
23 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0203 232 232. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATS.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up of 40% of the new material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

Paul Hayward says rugby's oldest fixture looks out of place in the new era

Error-prone Scots left to clutch at straws

ENGLAND's players flew home last night but their coach Clive Woodward stayed on in Scotland for a round of golf. Talk about rubbing it in. Rugby's oldest international rivalry (born 1879) is starting to look its age. After their ninth consecutive defeat by England it is the Scots who are going home "as they think again".

The little boy who fled sadly down the stairs 10 minutes before the end carried Scottish hopes with him into the night. "Scotland the brave," his scarf read. No triumphalist slur, it is intended.

It is simply that the evidence disarray in Scottish rugby is too obvious to ignore. Their coach, the granite-hewn Jim Telfer, admitted that the run of resounding English victories is becoming "more and more desperate".

Though they played well at times, Scotland were one more breathless victim on England's latest rumble through Celtic lands. For them it was a record points tally at Murrayfield, which is supposed to be a temple for Scottish rugby but has been more recently an expensive house of pain. Since November they have conceded 87 points to Australia, 68 to South Africa, 51 to France and now 34 to an England side who could afford to malfunction for 40 minutes before pounding the juice out of a hearty but error-prone foe.

In between the Scots have been beaten by Italy and at Wembley by Wales. Their sole battle honour is a one-point victory over Ireland in Dublin on February 7. Telfer knows a false dawn when he sees one. He will not be deceived by the tries from Tony Stanger and Shaun Longstaff that nudged this scoreline closer to respectability.

Television renders these encounters more dramatic than they really are. Rugby stomped into the salubrious with the stragglers from Dublin nursing screaming livers and many of the day-trippers fretting about work the next day. It can now be said that the crescendo of Anglo-Scottish rugby rivalry was in those

great Grand Slam encounters of the early Nineties, when the air filled with ancient resentments and victory over "the Auld Enemy" could compensate for half a dozen other defeats.

The Calcutta Cup no longer casts its shadow over the Five Nations season. And no more will it be used as a football or an after-shave receptacle in some swanky Edinburgh hotel. England's hasty departure last night was a sign of the changing times. No time for claret and speeches, cigars and leg-

pulling. It was all back on the plane for early bed and "club commitments". No time to slap all the memories on the haunting table and say to hell with work and tomorrow.

England steam on, towards a final Five Nations showdown with Ireland and then that barmy tour of the southern hemisphere, where the secrets of all human life are apparently enshrined.

From their post-match body language, it is plain that England now expect to beat the western Celts. The French are a different mat-

ter, of course, which is why that defeat in Paris still hurts. From the collective angst of half-time England emerged with thunderous intent. Time to stop messing about. Time to put the scoreboard to work.

The hard part is knowing how much progress England are actually making. Certainly Neil Back is providing an increasingly effective link between forwards and backs; the pack, when they perform, could probably conquer a small republic, and Paul Grayson is finally transcending the theory that he is simply Rob Andrew without the grin, a kicking-machine whose presence demonstrates England's conservatism.

Five Nations table									
Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Against	Pts	Points per game	Discipline	Notes
England	5	2	0	3	111	54	10.8	10	England captain
Wales	4	1	1	2	74	33	8.25	10	Wales captain
Scotland	4	1	1	2	52	23	6.5	10	Scotland captain
Ireland	4	1	1	2	52	23	6.5	10	Ireland captain
France	4	1	1	2	52	23	6.5	10	France captain